



10¢

JAN.  
NO. 28

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CODE



AUTHORITY

# HOUSE of SECRETS

*Featuring*

A  
**MARK  
MERLIN**  
MYSTERY

**MARK! COME BACK!**  
HOW CAN YOU  
BATTLE THAT MONSTER  
WITH YOUR BARE  
HANDS?



DO YOU  
WANT

SPENDING MONEY?

*Sell these popular Patriotic  
and Religious Mottoes*

mother

God took the Sunshine  
from the Skies  
And made the Lovelight  
in your eyes  
He gave you breath  
And with his Love  
made yours divine  
But best of all  
HE MADE YOU  
MINE

CHILD'S  
PRAYER

Now I lay me down  
To Sleep  
I pray the Lord  
my soul to keep  
If I should Die before  
I Wake  
I pray the Lord  
my soul to take

The Way Of The  
CROSS  
AS HOME

WRITE  
FOR COMPLETE  
DETAILS  
TO

### SEND US NO MONEY IN ADVANCE

Just write and ask us to send you 40 of these beautiful glittering mottoes which the public likes so well. Sell them easily and quickly to your friends and neighbors for only 35c each. At the end of 14 days send back, if you wish, all mottoes you have not sold, and send us only 25c for each you have sold. You keep all the rest of the money.

IF YOU SELL 25, YOU KEEP \$2.50

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**REMEMBER:** No money is needed in advance. You take no risks. You can return all the mottoes you do not sell. You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

Love  
one another  
AS I HAVE  
LOVED  
YOU

God Bless  
OUR  
HOME

STEPHENS CREDIT SALES

Dept. HN P. O. Box 1004

Nashville, Tennessee



WHAT UNKNOWN POWERS DOES THE HUMAN MIND POSSESS? WHAT SECRET SOURCES OF ENERGY LIE IN THE HIDDEN RECESSES OF OUR BRAINS? PERHAPS YOU WILL WISH YOU'D NEVER ASKED THESE QUESTIONS, AFTER YOU'VE MET...

# THE MAN WHO MADE MONSTERS



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IN A STEAMING PACIFIC JUNGLE, TWO PHYSICISTS MAKE READY FOR A FATEFUL EXPERIMENT...

THE HELMET CHECKS OUT, KEN... WE'RE READY TO TEST OUR **PSYCHODYNE!**

BY CAPTURING THE SUN'S ENERGY AND APPLYING IT TO THE ENERGY OF MY BRAIN WAVES, THIS LITTLE HELMET SHOULD ENABLE ME TO MOVE OBJECTS BY **PURE THOUGHT!**

RIGHT, STEVE... LET'S GO PLUG THE **PSYCHODYNE** INTO THE **SOLAR CONVERTER!**

OUTSIDE, A GREAT ARRAY OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS STANDS GLEAMING IN THE SUN...

IT SEEMS STRANGE, USING ALL THIS EQUIPMENT JUST TO LIFT A PENCIL!

DON'T FORGET, STEVE, ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL'S FIRST TELEPHONE MESSAGE ONLY TRAVELED **20 FEET!**

AFTER PLUGGING THE **PSYCHODYNE** INTO THE POWER SUPPLY...

OKAY, STEVE... WHEN I TURN ON THE CONVERTER, CONCENTRATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT PENCIL!

CHECK!... I'LL "THINK" THAT THING RIGHT INTO THE AIR!

AND AS KEN THROWS A SWITCH, SETTING THE MECHANISM INTO ACTION...

THE PENCIL ... **IT'S FLOATING!** YOU'VE DONE IT, STEVE... **YOU'VE DONE IT!**

C-CAN'T BELIEVE IT... MUST TRY AGAIN-- ON THAT BOOK NOW...



THE PENCIL FALLS, AS STEVE SHIFTS HIS CONCENTRATION--AND A MOMENT LATER...

THERE GOES THE BOOK!  
YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!



SUDDENLY...

AGGH!

STEVE!



WHAT HAPPENED? I SAW THE CONVERTER COIL SUDDENLY FLARE UP, AND-- AND... A SUDDEN BURST OF ENERGY FLASHED THROUGH THE HELMET! MUST HAVE BEEN A SUNSPOT... AN EXPLOSION ON THE SUN THAT GAVE THE SOLAR CONVERTER A SUPER-CHARGE!

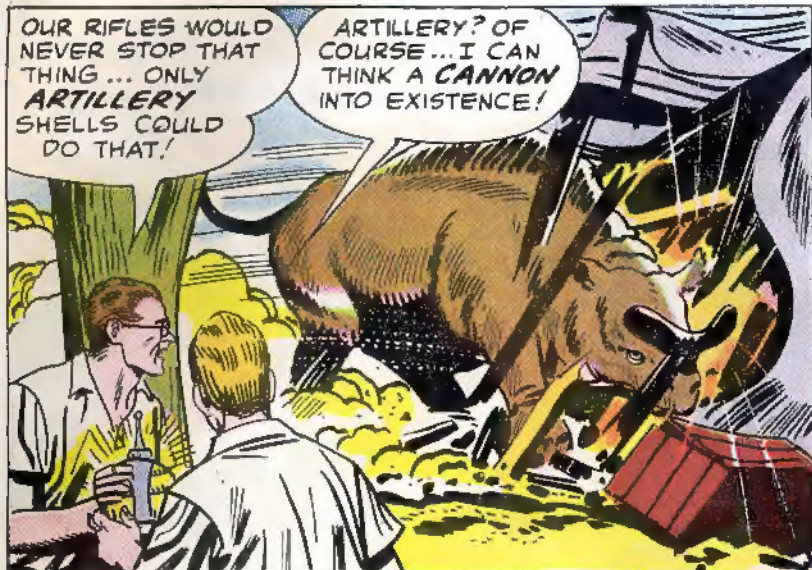


I WAS CONCENTRATING ON THAT BOOK, WHEN SUDDENLY-- GREAT SCOTT! LOOK BEHIND YOU, KEN!

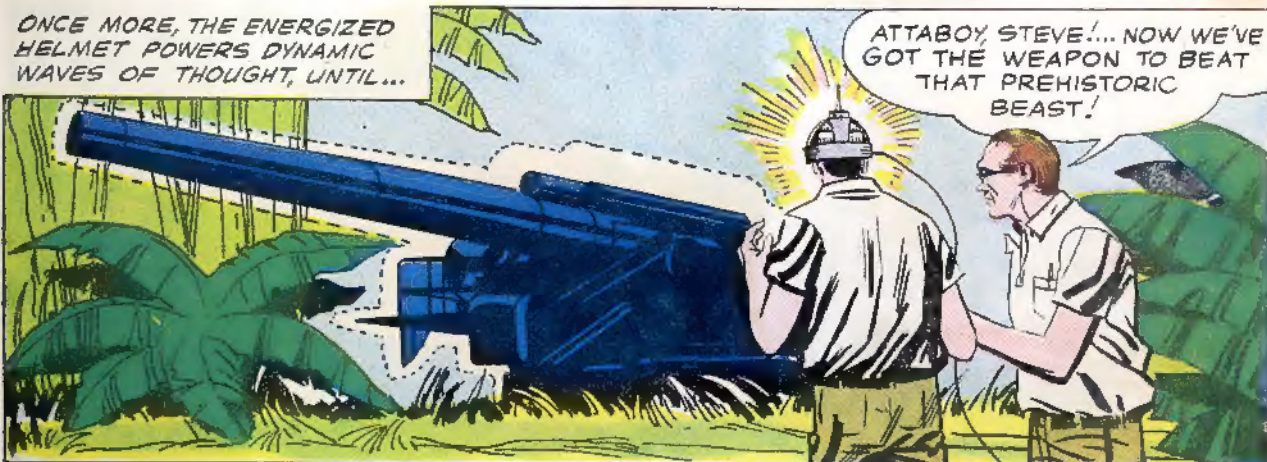


IT--IT WAS PART OF YOUR THOUGHTS WHEN THE SUPER-CHARGE STRUCK THE PSYCHODYNE! STEVE... Y-YOU'VE CREATED A MONSTER!





ONCE MORE, THE ENERGIZED HELMET POWERS DYNAMIC WAVES OF THOUGHT, UNTIL...



BUT WHEN THEY FIRE THE MASSIVE ARTILLERY PIECE...

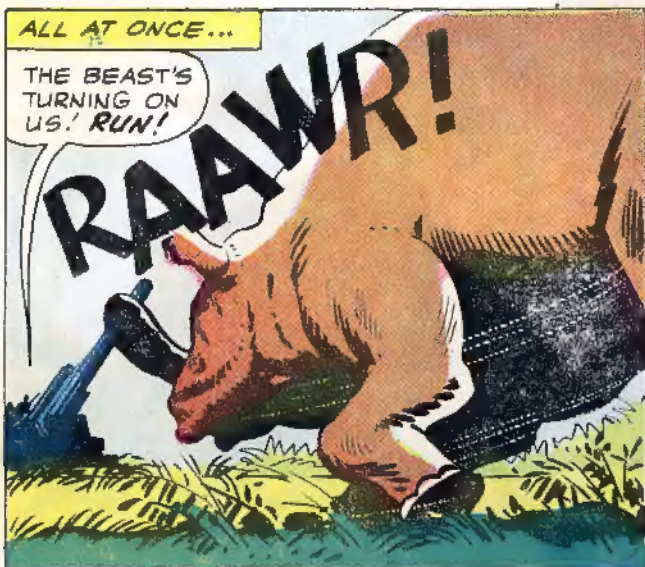




ALL AT ONCE...

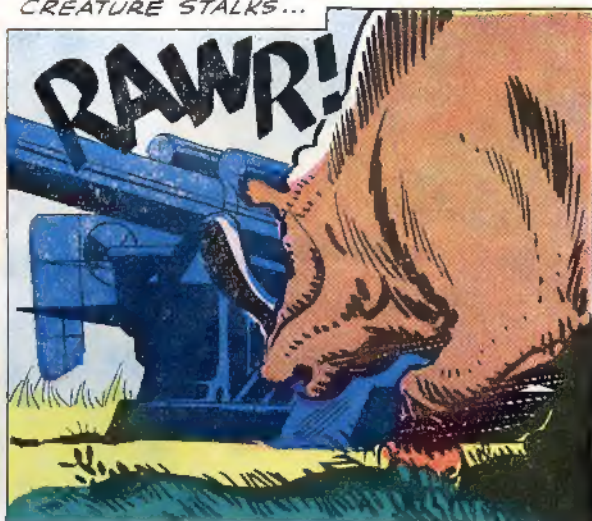
THE BEAST'S  
TURNING ON  
US! RUN!

RAAWR!



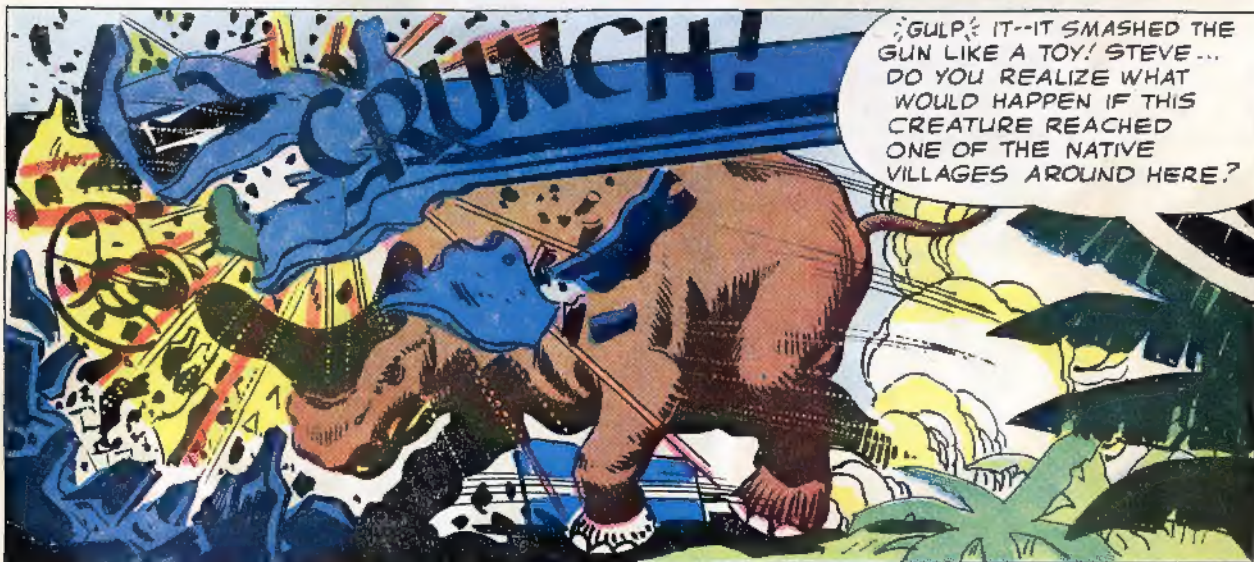
BUT IT IS A METAL ENEMY THAT THE  
CREATURE STALKS...

RAWR!



CRUNCH!

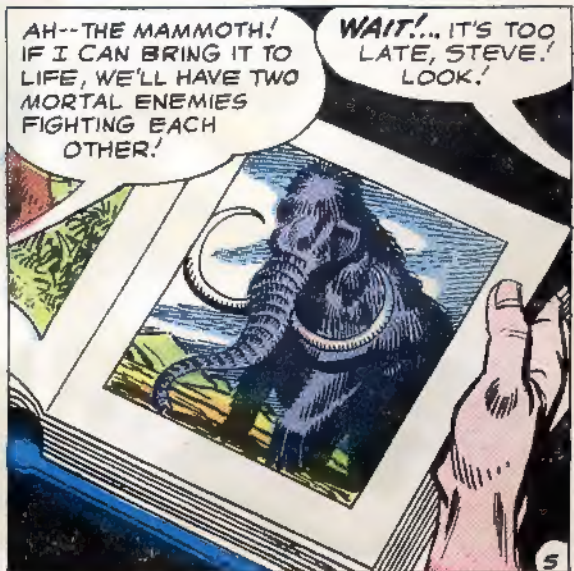
GULP! IT--IT SMASHED THE  
GUN LIKE A TOY! STEVE...  
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT  
WOULD HAPPEN IF THIS  
CREATURE REACHED  
ONE OF THE NATIVE  
VILLAGES AROUND HERE?



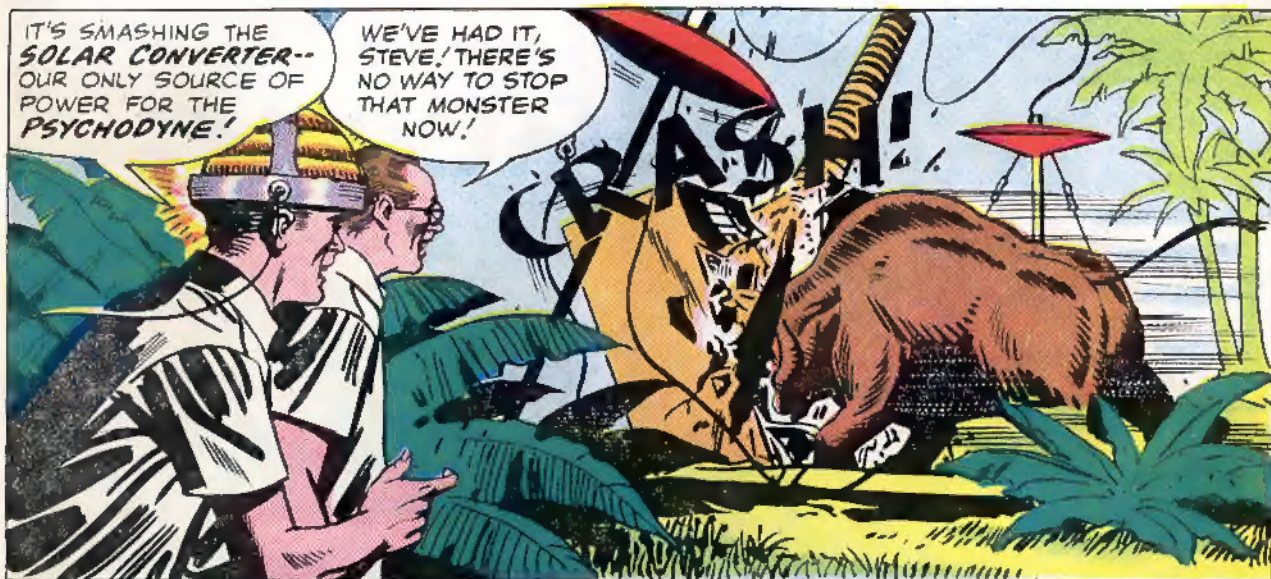
THERE'S ONLY ONE  
ANSWER, KEN, AND IT'S  
IN THIS BOOK! I MUST  
CREATE SOMETHING  
OUT OF ITS *OWN*  
TIME THAT WILL  
DESTROY IT!

AH--THE MAMMOTH!  
IF I CAN BRING IT TO  
LIFE, WE'LL HAVE TWO  
MORTAL ENEMIES  
FIGHTING EACH  
OTHER!

WAIT!... IT'S TOO  
LATE, STEVE!  
LOOK!







BUT FATE OFFERS ONE LAST HOPE...

THE HELMET... IT'S STILL **GLOWING!**

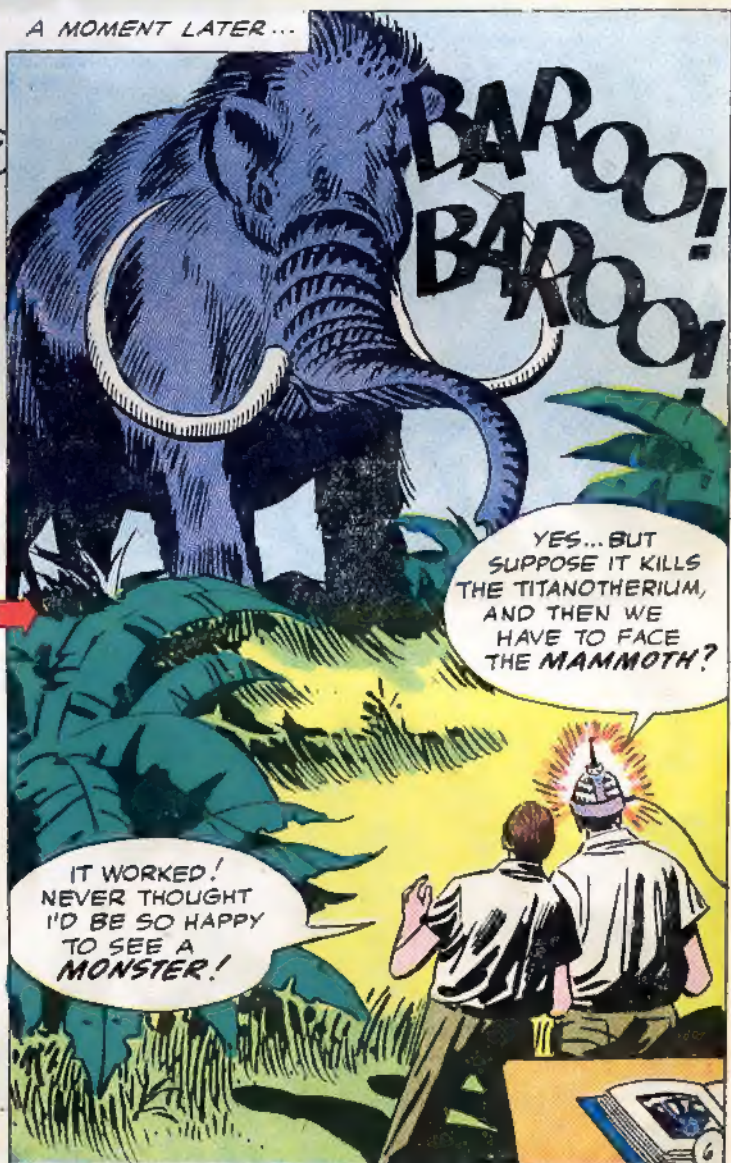
WHAT?? EACH TIME I USED THE **PSYCHODYNE**, IT MUST'VE RETAINED A **RESIDUAL CHARGE!** IF IT'S STORED ENOUGH ENERGY NOW, WE MAY STILL HAVE A CHANCE!



DESPERATELY, STEVE CONCENTRATES HIS THOUGHTS ON ANOTHER PREHISTORIC TERROR...



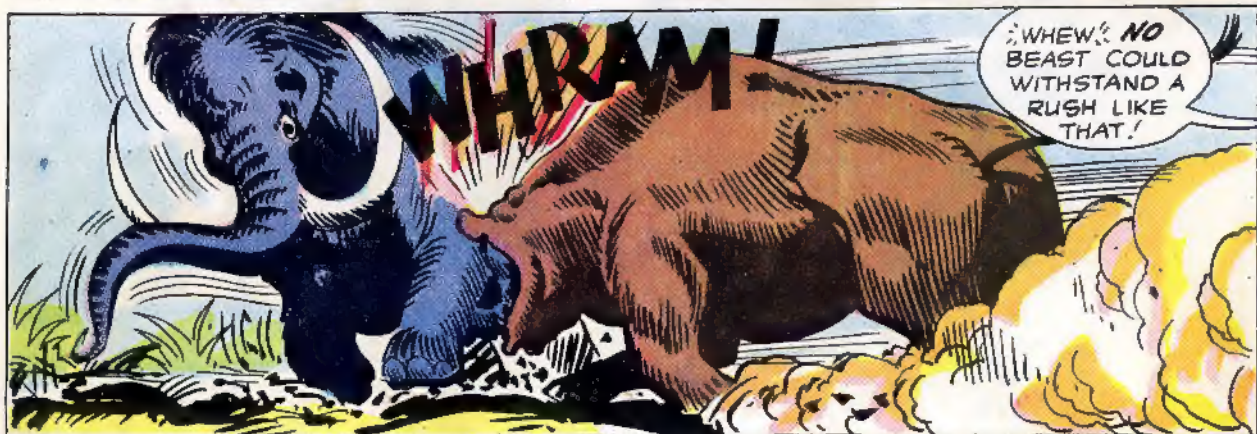
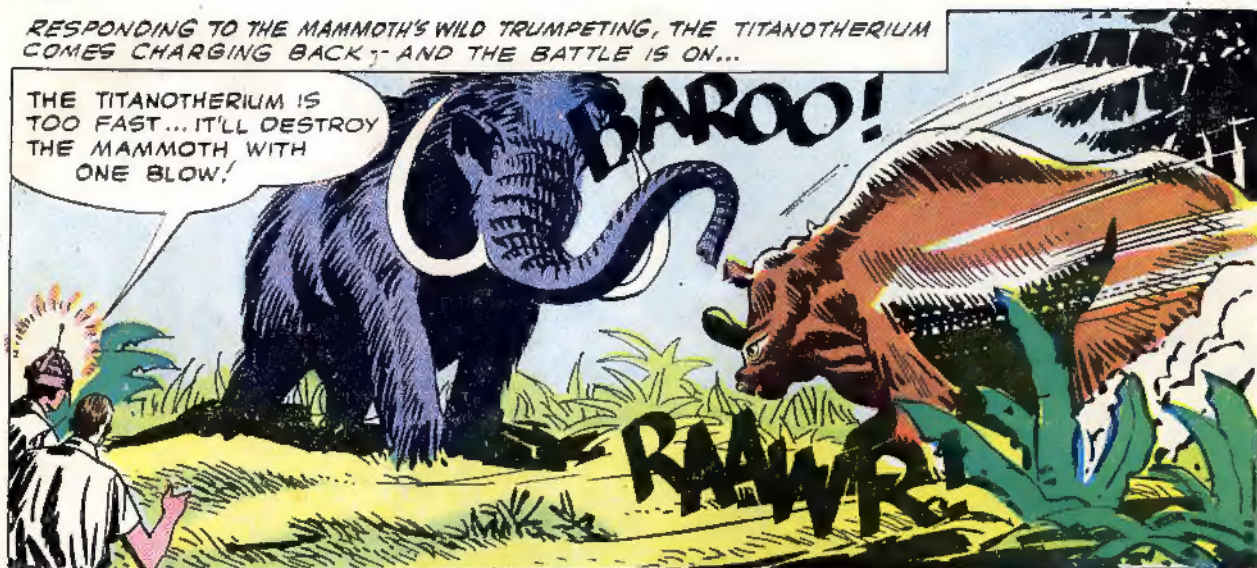
A MOMENT LATER...





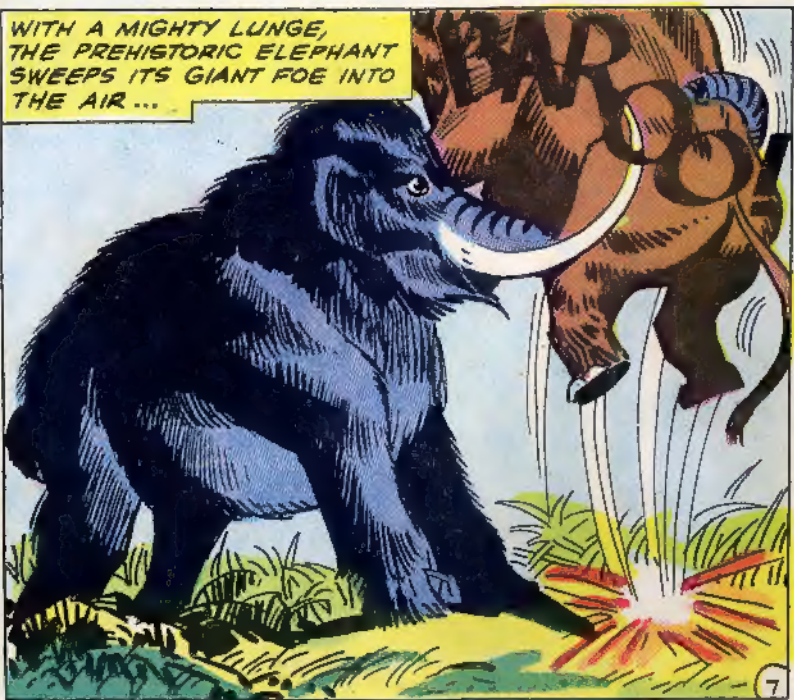
RESPONDING TO THE MAMMOTH'S WILD TRUMPETING, THE TITANOTHERIUM COMES CHARGING BACK - AND THE BATTLE IS ON...

THE TITANOTHERIUM IS TOO FAST... IT'LL DESTROY THE MAMMOTH WITH ONE BLOW!

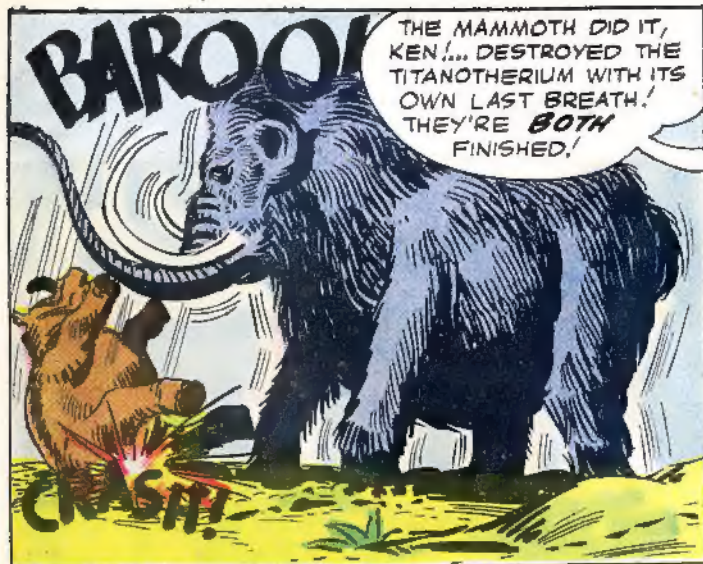


BUT, SOMEHOW, THE MAMMOTH STAGGERS TO ITS FEET, AND...

WITH A MIGHTY LUNGE, THE PREHISTORIC ELEPHANT SWEEPS ITS GIANT FOE INTO THE AIR...



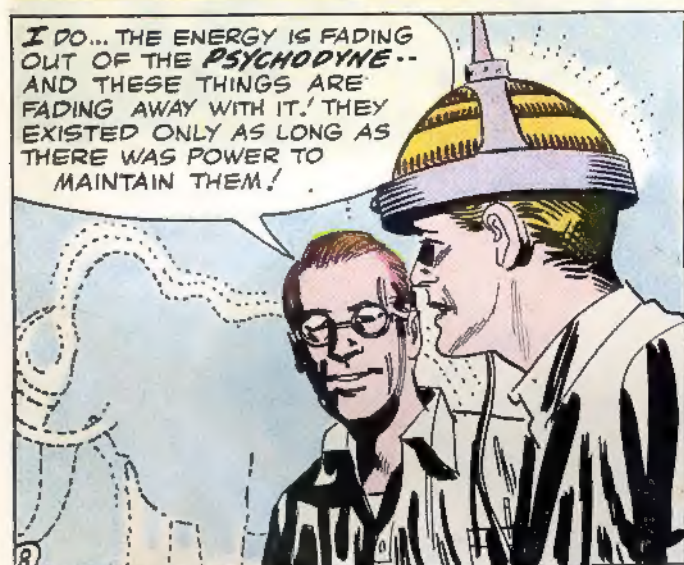




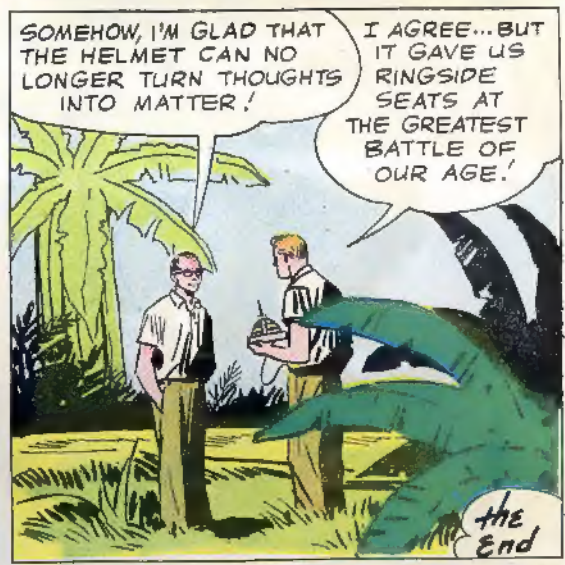
THE MAMMOTH DID IT, KEN... DESTROYED THE TITANOTHERIUM WITH ITS OWN LAST BREATH! THEY'RE BOTH FINISHED!



NOW WE CAN GET A CLOSER LOOK AT-- WAIT!... THEY'RE DISAPPEARING! I-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND...



I DO... THE ENERGY IS FADING OUT OF THE **PSYCHODYNE**-- AND THESE THINGS ARE FADING AWAY WITH IT! THEY EXISTED ONLY AS LONG AS THERE WAS POWER TO MAINTAIN THEM!



SOMEHOW, I'M GLAD THAT THE HELMET CAN NO LONGER TURN THOUGHTS INTO MATTER!

I AGREE... BUT IT GAVE US RINGSIDE SEATS AT THE GREATEST BATTLE OF OUR AGE!

the End

# Your Passport to AMAZING ADVENTURES!

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED

10¢

IT'S A JAVAN CARBIDE MONSTER WITH IN-ARMY WITH SPECIALTY OF SPECIALLY TRAINED INTERPLANETARY BEASTS!

ON SALE EVERYWHERE!

GREATEST ADVENTURE

10¢

NO DOG SHOOT! I'VE GOT TO PROTECT THE BASH-- EVEN THOUGH HE WANTS TO KILL ME!

I WAS BODYGUARD TO A BEAST!

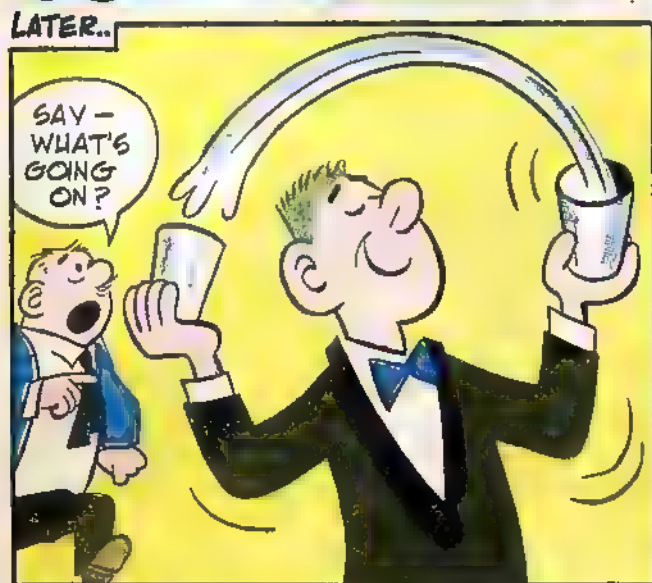
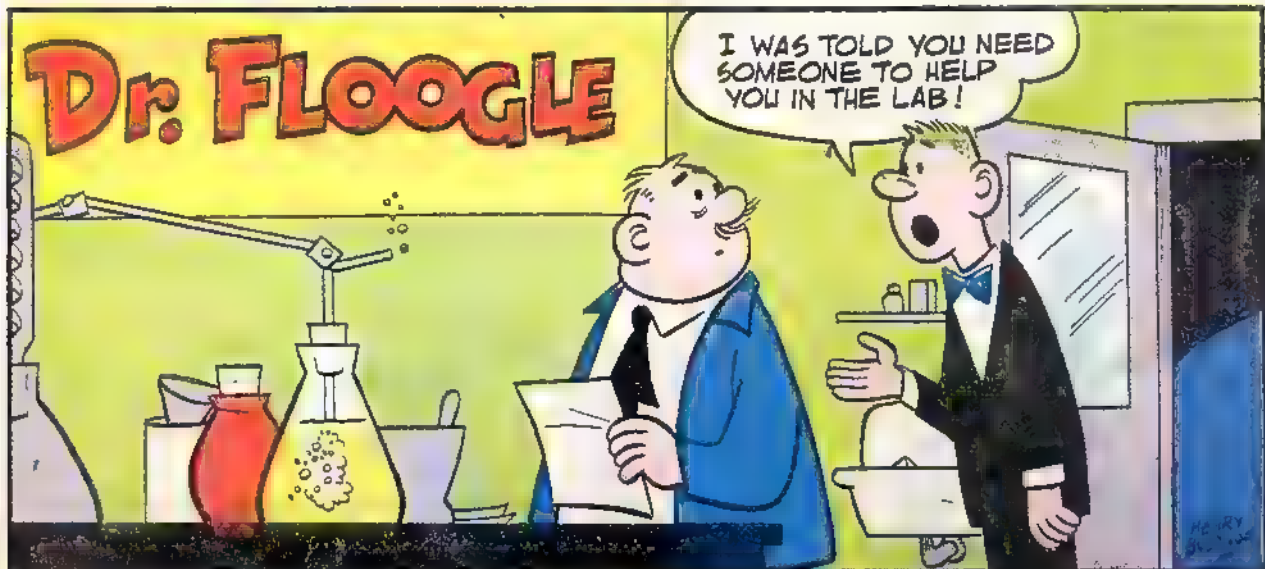
TODAY'S MOST ELECTRIFYING MAGAZINES.

STRANGE ADVENTURES

10¢

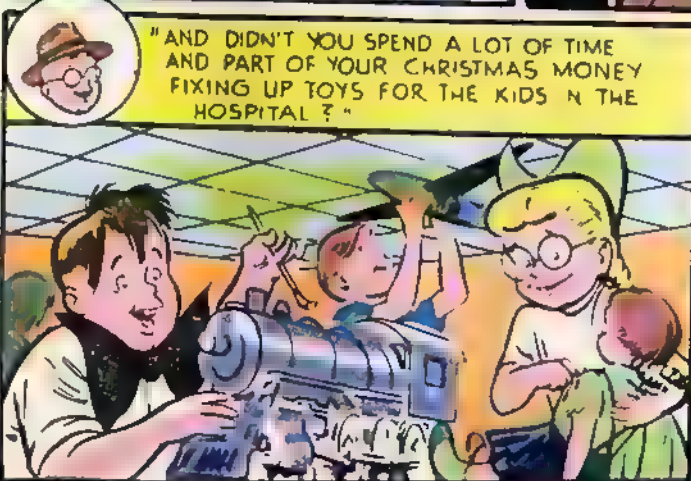
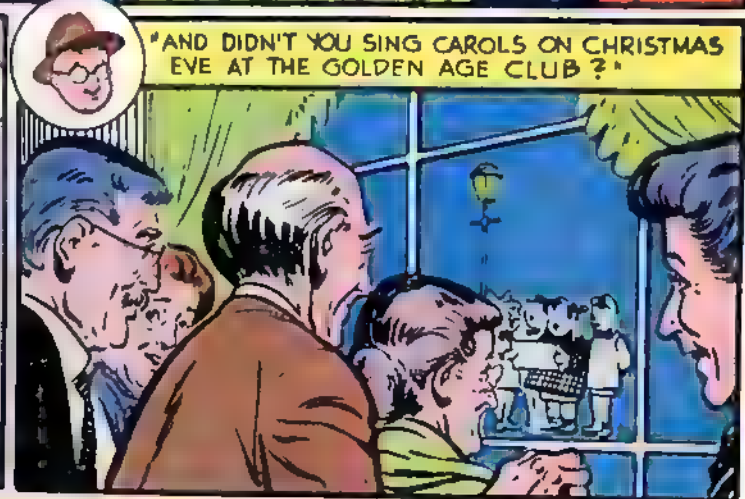
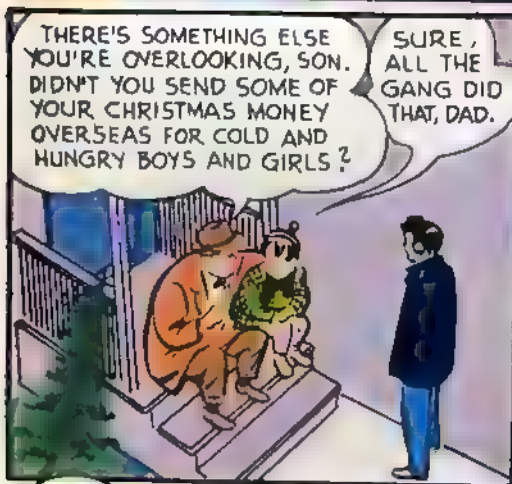
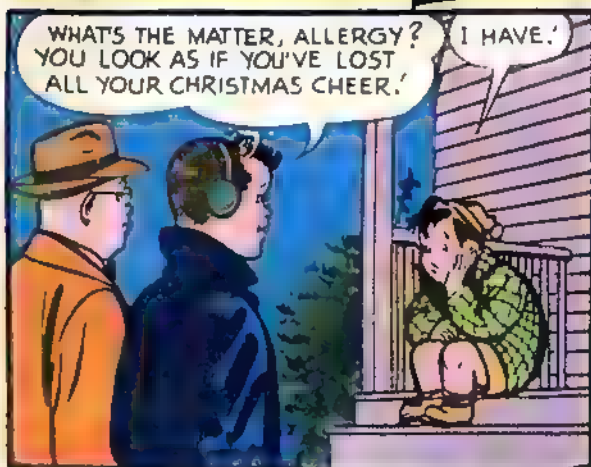
MANAGE THE THE GINGER WITCH!







# Binky in "The BEST PRESENT OF ALL!"





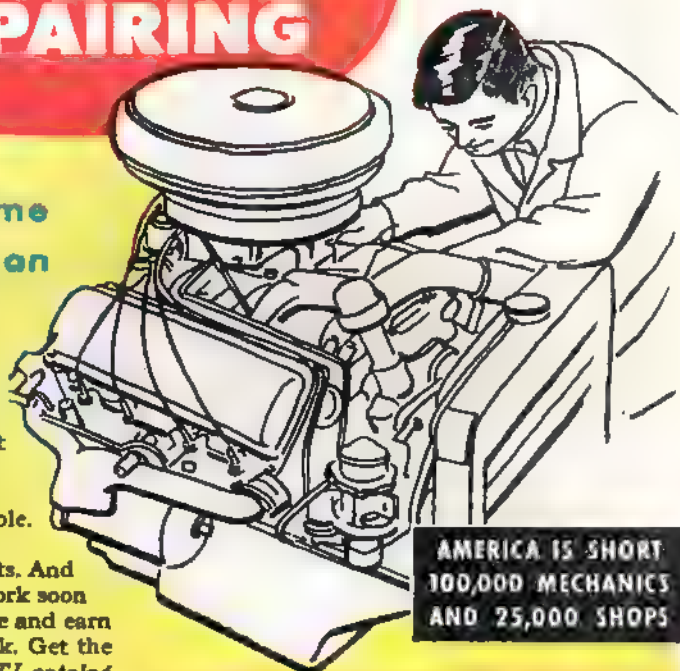
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**AMERICA IS SHORT  
100,000 MECHANICS  
AND 25,000 SHOPS**

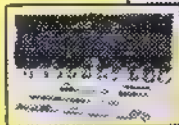
**You learn by practicing  
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You get an engine Tune-Up Kit (left). It includes a Compression Tester; Vacuum Gauge & Fuel Pump Tester; Ignition Timing Light, portable steel case. These accurate, quality instruments help you locate engine troubles quickly.



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"Am now a mechanic in an auto shop."—Donald Ross, Kenyon, Minn. "Was employed as mechanic while a student. Am ready to go in business."—Delbert King, Phoenix. "Work in a Buick garage and repair Dynaflo transmissions."—Leland Houghton, Waukegan, Illinois. "Earned \$1,000 as I trained. Now have own shop and specialize in ignition."—George Mills, Cleveland.

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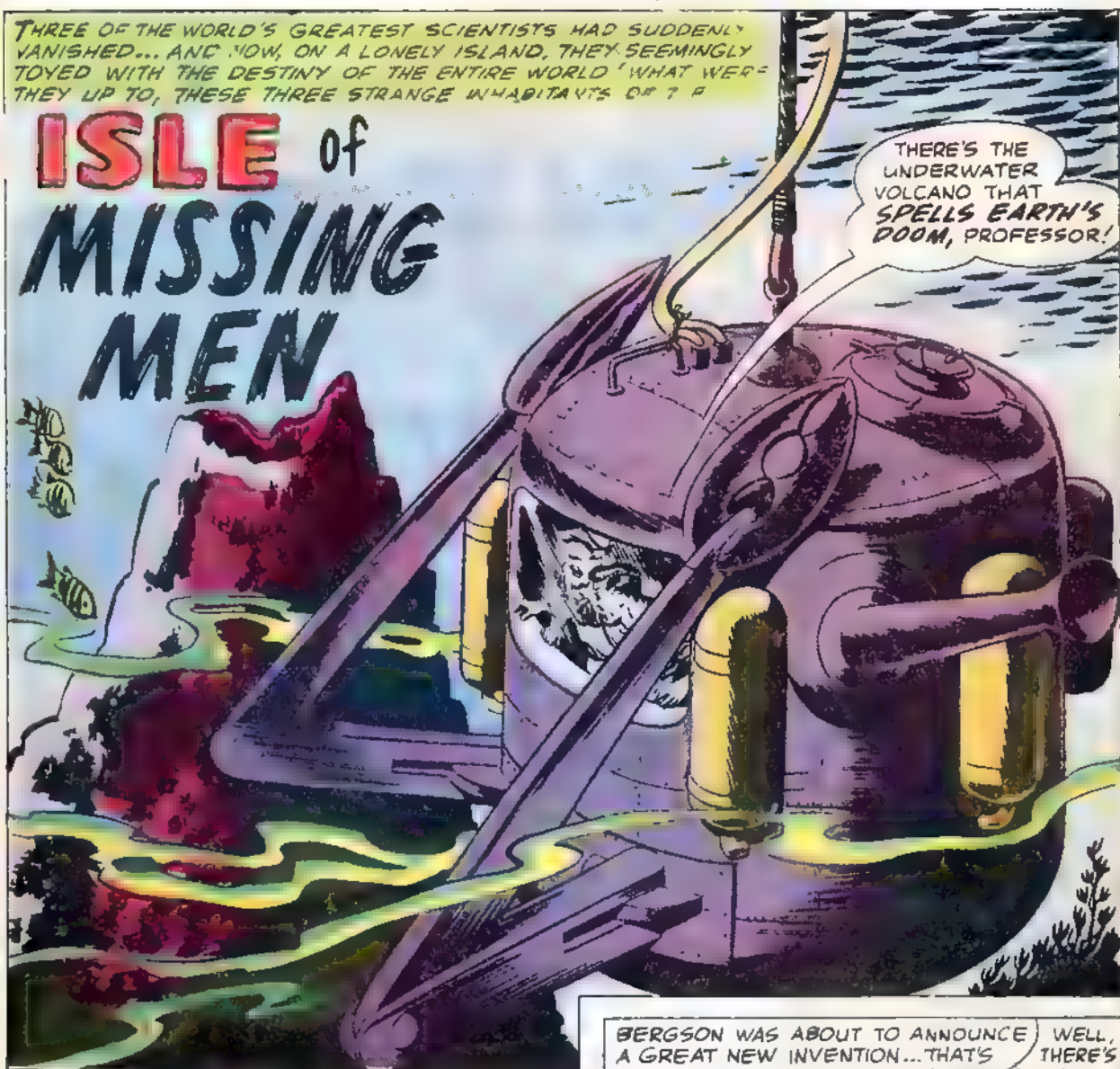
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THREE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SCIENTISTS HAD SUDDENLY VANISHED... AND NOW, ON A LONELY ISLAND, THEY SEEMINGLY TOYED WITH THE DESTINY OF THE ENTIRE WORLD! WHAT WERE THEY UP TO, THESE THREE STRANGE INHABITANTS OF ?

## ISLE of MISSING MEN



OFF A REMOTE ISLAND, A FATEFUL JOURNEY NEARS ITS CLIMAX...

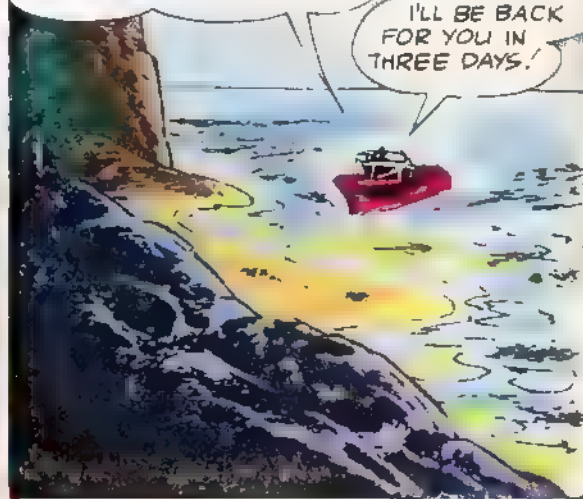
SO AN INSURANCE COMPANY HIRED YOU TO FIND THOSE THREE MISSING SCIENTISTS, EH, MR. MARTIN?

NO, JUST **ONE** OF THEM! DRS. MELINI AND SAGUCHI VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE... BUT I'VE TRAILED PROFESSOR BERGSON TO THIS ISLAND!



BERGSON WAS ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE A GREAT NEW INVENTION... THAT'S WHY I SUSPECT FOUL PLAY IN HIS DISAPPEARANCE!

WELL, THERE'S THE BEACH I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU IN THREE DAYS!





UP THE SIDE OF THE ISLAND MOUNTAIN  
CLIMBS THE DETECTIVE, UNTIL...



SEEMS TO BE A HOUSE  
DOWN THERE... GUESS I'M  
ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

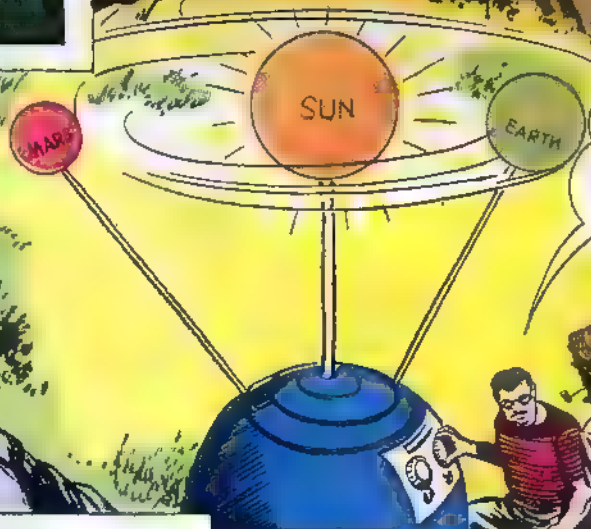
AND BELOW LIES  
A TRIUMPHANT  
DISCOVERY...



MELINI, SAGUCHI AND BERGSON...  
**ALL THREE OF THEM**  
TOGETHER ON THIS DESERTED  
ISLAND! BUT WHY?

TAILING THE TRIO, JOHNNY COMES UPON A STILL  
GREATER PUZZLE...

A HUGE SCALE MODEL OF PART  
OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM!  
WHAT'S IT FOR?... AND WHY  
THIS SECRECY?

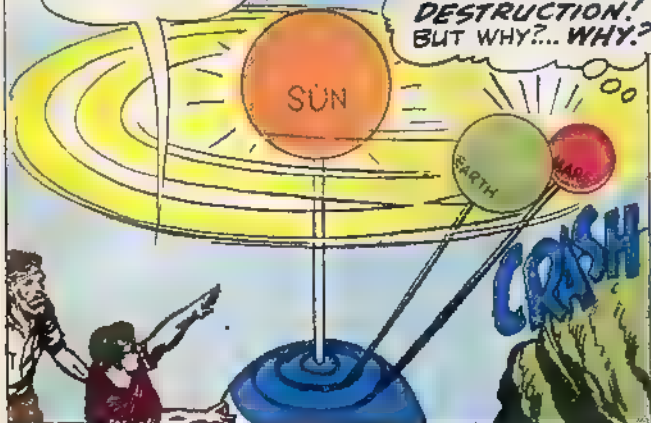


NOTICE,  
PROFESSOR  
BERGSON,  
WHAT  
HAPPENS WHEN  
I SHIFT THE  
MODEL EARTH'S  
CORE A  
FRACTION...



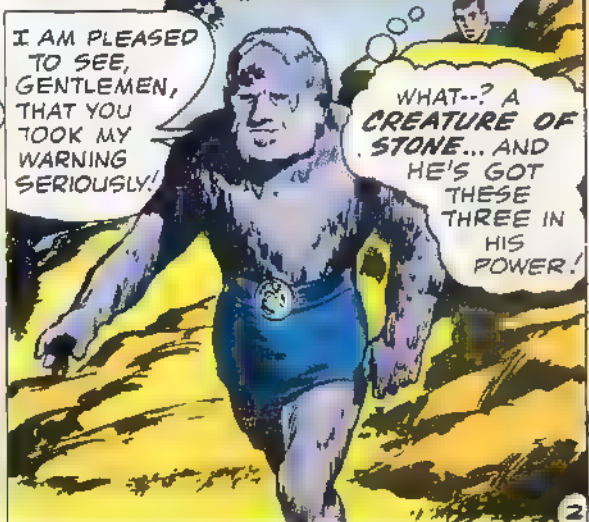
SEE?... THAT SMALL CHANGE  
IN ORBIT WAS ENOUGH TO  
MAKE EARTH COLLIDE  
WITH MARS!

GREAT SCOTT!  
THREE OF OUR  
GREATEST MINDS  
PLANNING  
**EARTH'S  
DESTRUCTION!**  
BUT WHY?... WHY?



A MOMENT LATER COMES THE STARTLING  
ANSWER...

I AM PLEASED  
TO SEE,  
GENTLEMEN,  
THAT YOU  
TOOK MY  
WARNING  
SERIOUSLY!



WHAT...? A  
**CREATURE OF  
STONE...** AND  
HE'S GOT  
THESE  
THREE IN  
HIS  
POWER!



INSTANTLY, JOHNNY MOUNTS A DARING ATTACK...



BUT THEN COMES THE BIGGEST SHOCK OF ALL...

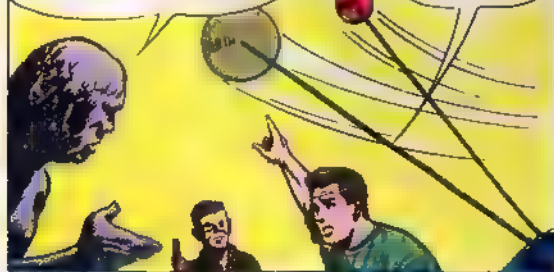
DON'T MOVE! OR I WILL SHOOT!

Y-YOU MEAN...YOU'RE IN ON THIS PLOT WITH HIM? YOU WANT TO DESTROY EARTH?



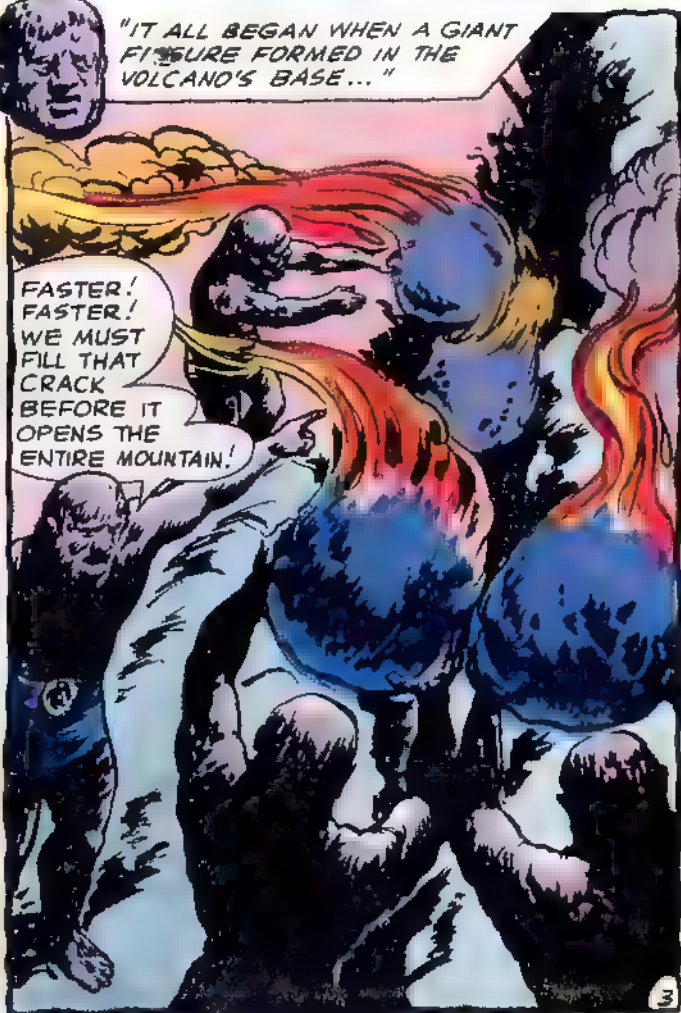
NO...YOU HAVE MISJUDGED US ALL! I AM ZOLU, ONE OF THE LAVA PEOPLE! I HAVE RISKED MY LIFE TO COME UP AND WARN YOUR WORLD THAT THE VOLCANO ABOVE MY HOME WILL SHORTLY ERUPT!

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH THIS SCHEME?



"IT ALL BEGAN WHEN A GIANT FIGURE FORMED IN THE VOLCANO'S BASE..."

FASTER! FASTER! WE MUST FILL THAT CRACK BEFORE IT OPENS THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN!





"BUT OUR EFFORTS PROVED FUTILE--AND WITH EACH DAY, THE PERIL INCREASED, UNTIL..."

SOON THE VOLCANO WILL ERUPT, ZOLU... THE **ENTIRE MOUNTAIN** WILL SPLIT OPEN, SHIFTING THE EARTH'S CORE! YOU MUST GO UP AND WARN THE SURFACE PEOPLE!

I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY!

I CONTACTED YOUR LEADING OCEANOGRAPHER, DR. MELINI, WHO IN TURN SECRETLY INFORMED SAGUCHI AND BERGSON! PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WOULD HAVE CAUSED DISASTROUS PANIC!

IT WAS MY NEW INVENTION THAT HELD THE KEY TO THE SOLUTION! COME, I'LL SHOW YOU...

SHORTLY... I CALL IT THE **DELTA-RAY**! THIS MACHINE CAN CHANGE THE ATOMIC AND MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF ANY SUBSTANCE! FOR EXAMPLE, WATCH THAT TREE AHEAD...

**GREAT GUNS!** YOU'VE TURNED THE TREE FROM **WOOD TO GOLD**, PROFESSOR BERGSON!

OR ANYTHING I MIGHT WANT, JUST BY A FLIP OF THE DIAL! WITH THIS MACHINE, WE CAN TURN THE FISSURE TO SOLID STEEL, AND SEAL IT UP FOREVER!

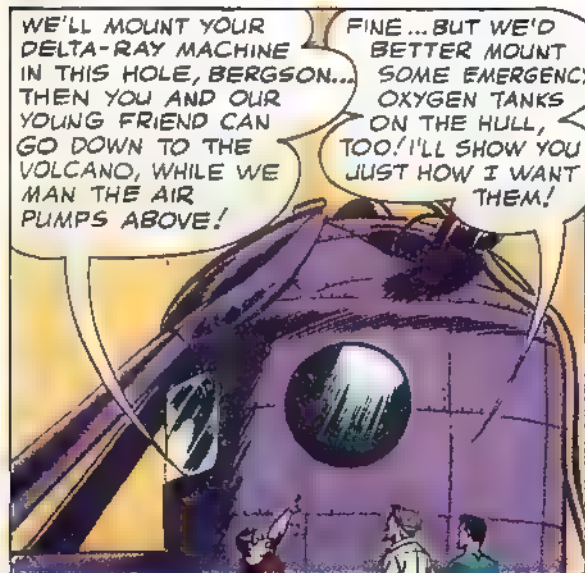
NOW, FOLLOW ME DOWN TO THE BEACH, WHERE I WILL SHOW YOU THE VEHICLE THAT WILL CARRY BERGSON'S MACHINE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN! YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST HIM--IF YOU WISH!

AT THE BEACH, A WEIRD SIGHT UNFOLDS...

WH-WHAT IN BLAZES IS **THAT** THING, PROFESSOR MELINI?

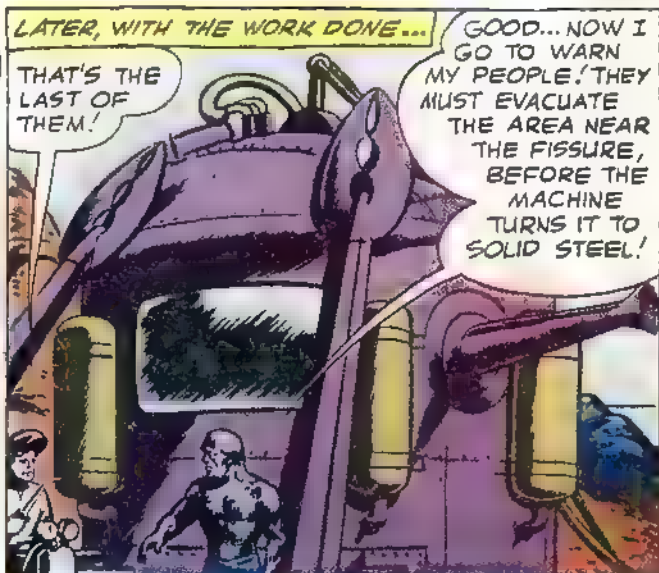
I DESIGNED IT MYSELF... ITS MECHANICAL CLAWS CAN REMOVE ANY OBSTACLE YOU MEET AT THE OCEAN'S BOTTOM!





WE'LL MOUNT YOUR DELTA-RAY MACHINE IN THIS HOLE, BERGSON... THEN YOU AND OUR YOUNG FRIEND CAN GO DOWN TO THE VOLCANO, WHILE WE MAN THE AIR PUMPS ABOVE!

FINE... BUT WE'D BETTER MOUNT SOME EMERGENCY OXYGEN TANKS ON THE HULL, TOO! I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW I WANT THEM!



LATER, WITH THE WORK DONE... THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM!

GOOD... NOW I GO TO WARN MY PEOPLE! THEY MUST EVACUATE THE AREA NEAR THE FISSURE, BEFORE THE MACHINE TURNS IT TO SOLID STEEL!

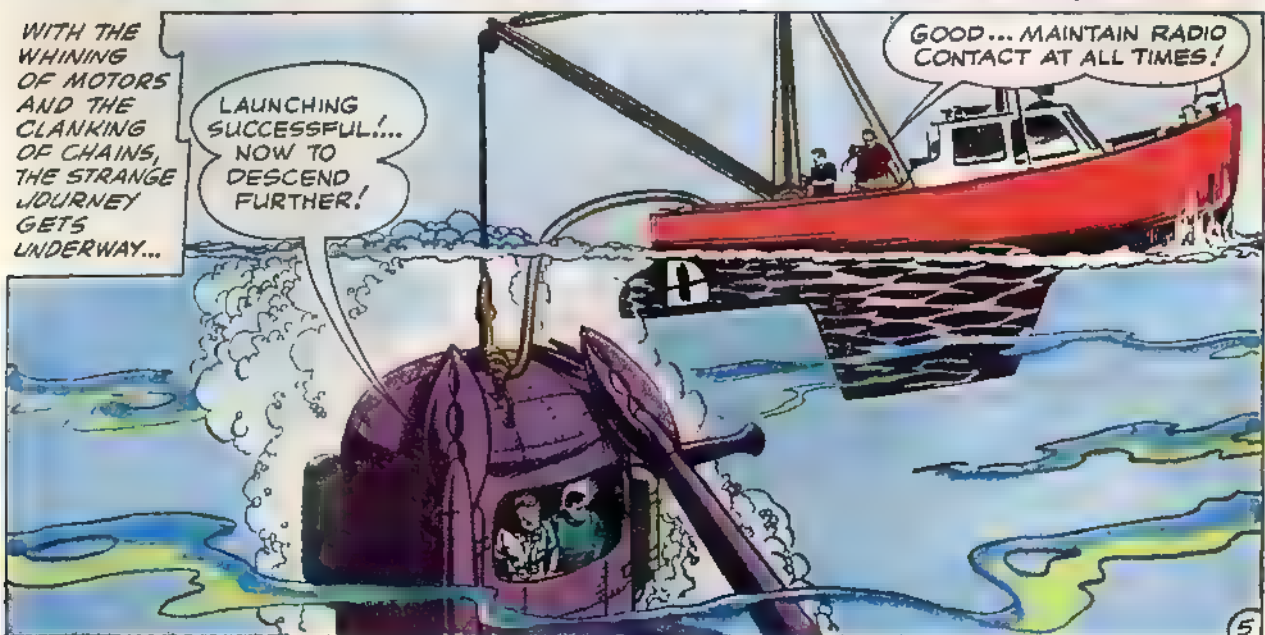


GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS... MAY THE SPIRITS OF THE SEA BE WITH YOU IN YOUR GREAT WORK!

CAREFULLY THE UNIQUE BATHOSPHERE IS TOWED INTO THE OCEAN WITH THE OUTGOING TIDE...

WE ARE DIRECTLY OVER THE VOLCANO NOW, PROFESSOR... PREPARE TO DESCEND!

READY, DR. MELINI... WISH US LUCK!



WITH THE WHINING OF MOTORS AND THE CLANKING OF CHAINS, THE STRANGE JOURNEY GETS UNDERWAY...

LAUNCHING SUCCESSFUL... NOW TO DESCEND FURTHER!

GOOD... MAINTAIN RADIO CONTACT AT ALL TIMES!



SOON...



THERE'S THE VOLCANO, PROFESSOR... BUT I DON'T SEE ANY CRACK IN ITS BASE!

NEITHER DO I... WE'LL CIRCLE AROUND TO THE OTHER SIDE!

SLOWLY THE SURFACE CRAFT DESCRIBES AN ARC, TOWING THE BATHOSPHERE AROUND THE VOLCANO...

HELLO, MELINI! WE'VE CIRCLED THE VOLCANO COMPLETELY AND FIND NO SIGN OF THE FISSURE!

OF COURSE NOT...FOR THERE IS NO FISSURE!

WHAT?

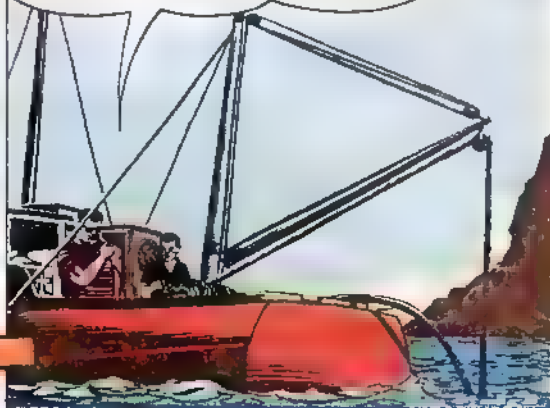
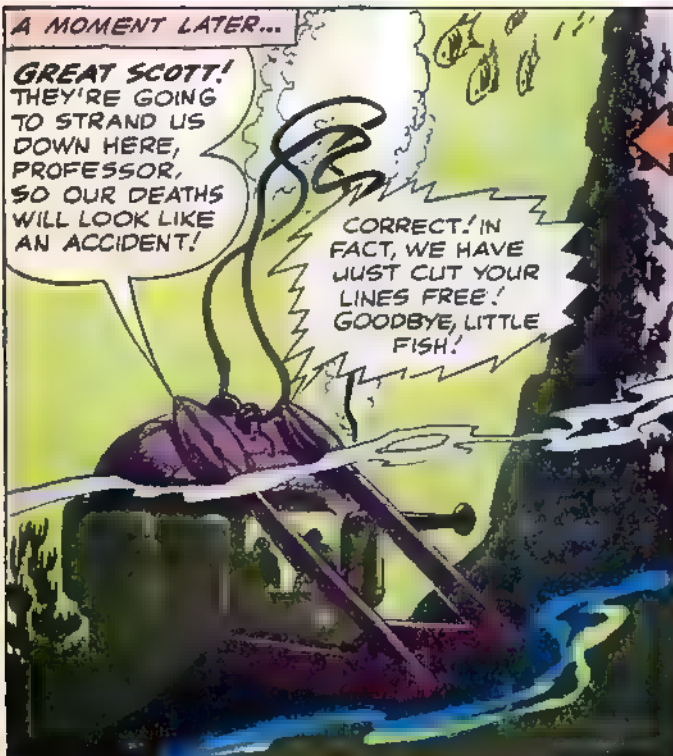


YOU HAVE BEEN DUPED, PROFESSOR! WE ARE NOT THE REAL MELINI AND SAGUCHI! THIS HOAX COST US PLENTY, BUT WE GAINED YOUR CONFIDENCE-- AND WITH IT, THE DIAGRAMS OF YOUR INVENTION, WORTH MILLIONS!

A MOMENT LATER...

GREAT SCOTT! THEY'RE GOING TO STRAND US DOWN HERE, PROFESSOR, SO OUR DEATHS WILL LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!

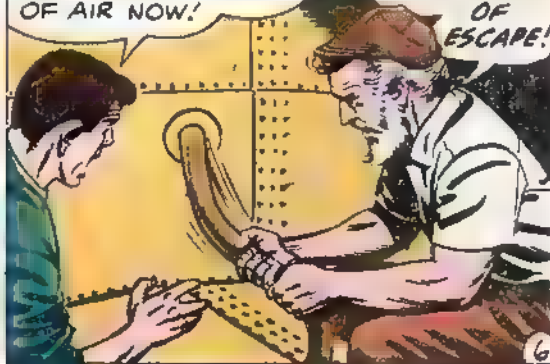
CORRECT! IN FACT, WE HAVE JUST CUT YOUR LINES FREE! GOODBYE, LITTLE FISH!



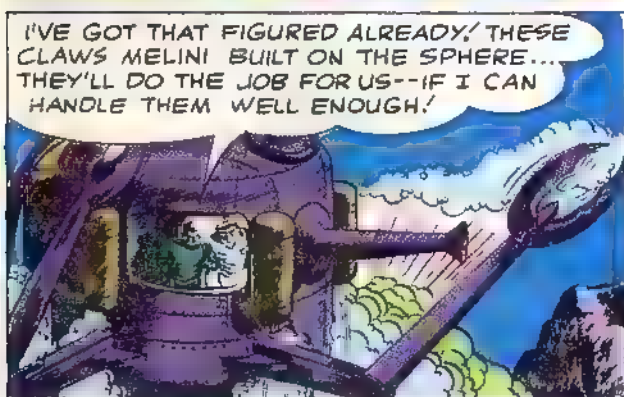
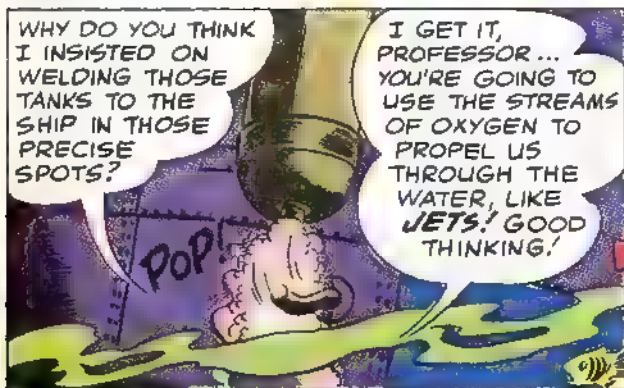
WITH RADIO CONTACT BROKEN, THE PROFESSOR MAKES A STRANGE MOVE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THAT OXYGEN TUBE YOU'RE TUGGING ON... IT'S ONE OF OUR ONLY SOURCES OF AIR NOW!

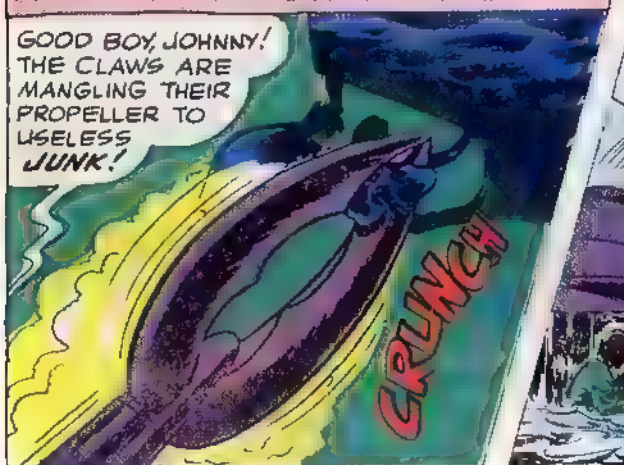
IT'S MORE THAN THAT, JOHNNY...IT'S OUR MEANS OF ESCAPE!



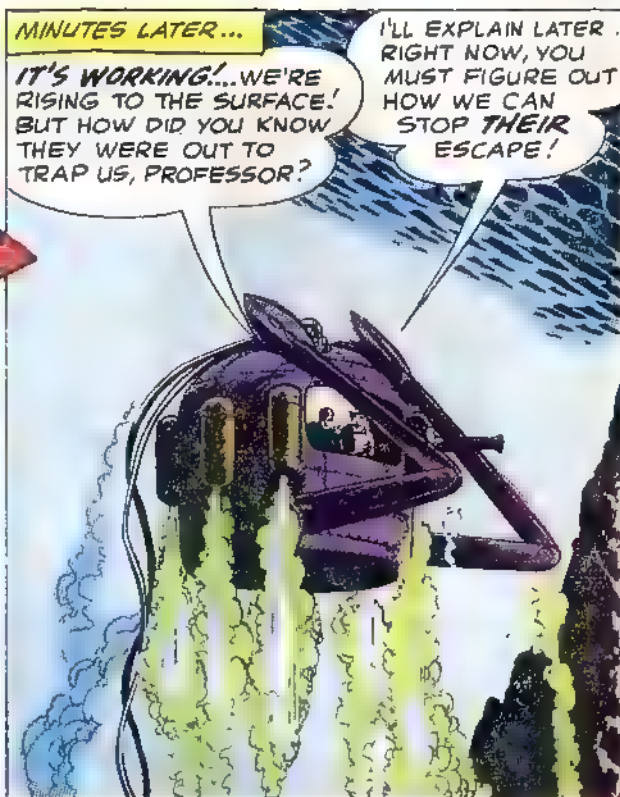




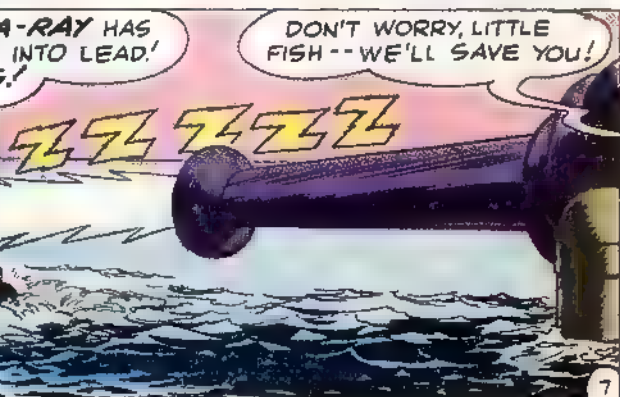
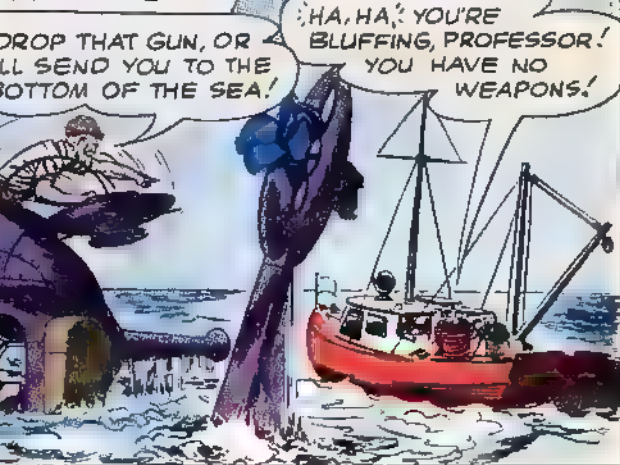
AS THE SPHERE RISES TOWARD THE LAUNCH, JOHNNY PUTS HIS PLAN TO WORK...



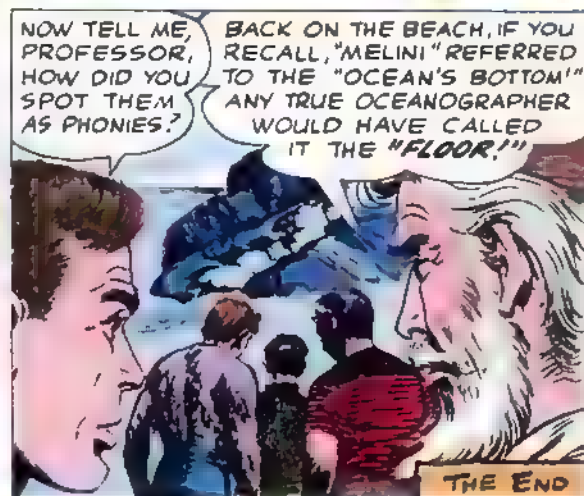
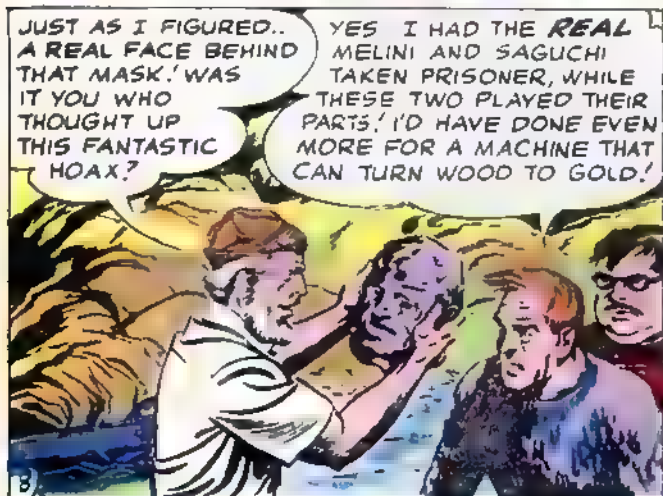
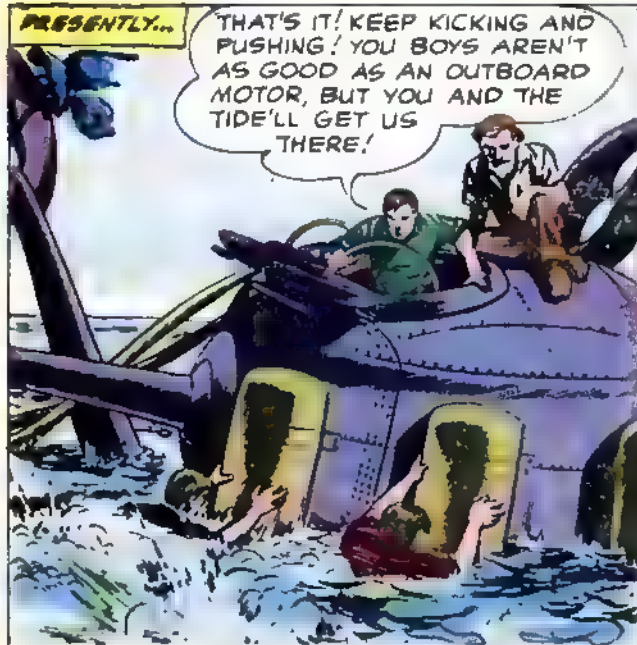
BUT THE IMPOSTOR HAS FORGOTTEN THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL...



SWIFTLY, THE SPHERE SURFACES--AND AS THE HATCH OPENS...







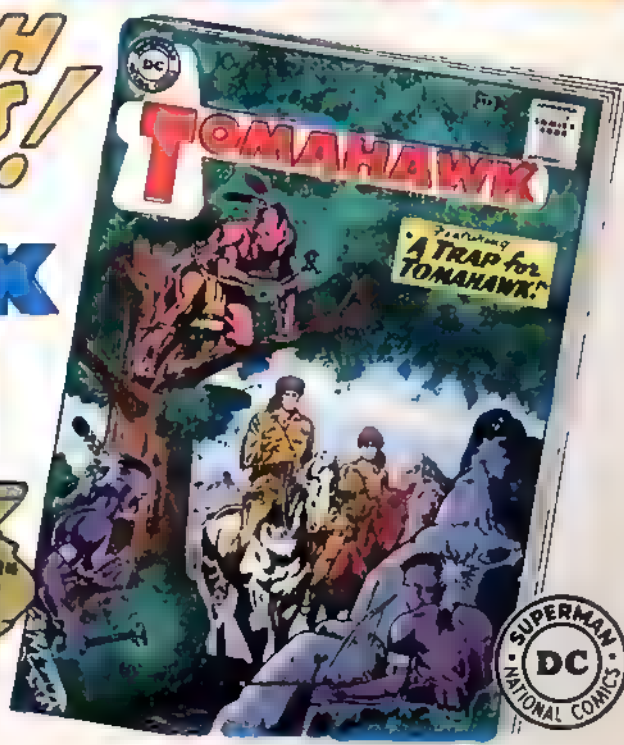
# The **MAN WITH NINE LIVES!**

THAT'S WHAT THE BOLD BUCKSKIN HERO...  
**TOMAHAWK**

SEEMED TO BE. AS HE MIRACULOUSLY ESCAPED ONE PERILOUS TRAP AFTER ANOTHER!

READ THESE NEW THRILL-PACKED ADVENTURES OF THE FAMED FRONTIER FIGHTER!  
"SECRET of the MAGIC WAR BONNET!"  
"INDIAN GENERAL!"  
"A TRAP for TOMAHAWK!"

**ON SALE EVERYWHERE!**





# DEMONS OF THE VALLEY

THEY told me I had come staggering into the village, screaming hysterically, and I believed them. They said my eyes had been glazed, my limbs had been trembling, and my breath had been coming in short, labored gasps. I believed them, though I remembered nothing of my return. Indeed, my last recollection was of them—those ugly, grinning phantom shapes in the nearby valley.

Now, Dr. Franz was gazing at me with a sympathetic smile, as I lay in the thatched hut which he called his infirmary. "Still think it's superstitious nonsense?" he finally asked.

"I don't know what to think, doctor," I replied.

"Neither did I, when I first arrived here to establish a medical outpost for the natives. I, too, considered them superstitious, with their stories of valley demons capable of driving a man insane and, in some cases, bringing death to those who gazed upon them."

"And now?" I queried.

"Now, my friend," Dr. Franz answered, pointing at his chest, "I have a weakened heart—my proof of an encounter with those demons. In a way, I suppose we both got off lucky."

"But where do they come from?" I pressed on. "And why do they inhabit only that particular valley, in this remote section of the world?"

Tolerantly, the doctor placed his hand on my shoulder. "I am a man of medicine," he said, "whose job is to wipe out disease. You are a geologist in search of mineral wealth. The riddle of those valley spirits is out of our province. Here now, let me check your temperature."

The doctor held a thermometer to my lips—and all at once, as my eye caught the thin sliver of mercury inside the instrument, my

mind began racing back to those awful moments in the valley . . . to the smoke rising from silvery lakes—to the glittering drops of water on the foliage, reflecting the hot sunlight—to the demons themselves materializing out of the haze, while my throat choked up and my heart started beating like a trip-hammer . . . and in that same instant, I knew I had the answer.

I told the doctor nothing—but immediately upon his discharging me, I sent back to the states for a single item—a gas mask. It took weeks for the thing to arrive, but finally I was ready. Donning the gas mask, I made my way back to the demons' valley.

So far, so good. I entered without mishap, moved through the smoke toward the shimmering lakes. Soon, I was gathering the silvery water in tiny bottles—and presently, I was making my way back. Not once had I met with a demon.

"Doctor," I later said, displaying the bottles, "I'm sending these home for analysis. Meanwhile, I want you to describe the symptoms of *mercury poisoning*."

"Mercury?" he said in bewilderment. "Shortness of breath, strain on the heart, nervous twitching, sometimes hallucinations . . ." He cut himself short. "Wait, my friend! Do you mean—down in that valley . . .?"

His answer came in a letter that was mailed me from the home laboratory, some weeks afterward. It said that a crew was en route to extract all the mercury from that valley I'd discovered. The letter also cautioned me to be careful, because mercury vaporizes under heat, and can prove poisonous to anyone who inhales it—as the doctor and I had done.

"Well, Dr. Franz," I said, handing him the letter, "it looks as if both the geologist and the man of medicine have solved the riddle of the demons of the valley."



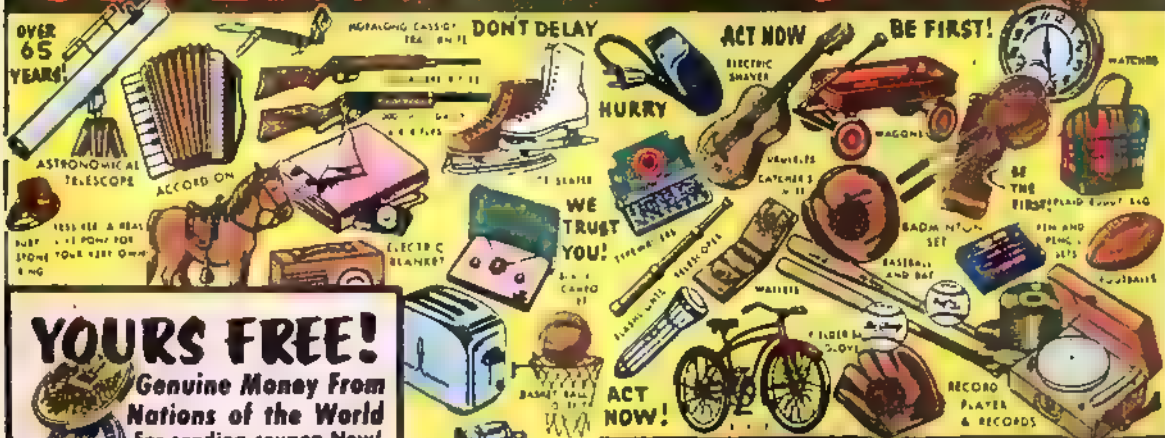
**D**URING THE TWELVE-DAY PERIOD FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS, WITCHES AND DEMONS WERE ONCE THOUGHT TO ROAM THE EARTH -- AND COULD BE DRIVEN OFF ONLY BY FIRES..

AN OLD ENGLISH SUPERSTITION WARNED THAT BAD FORTUNE WOULD OVERTAKE ANY HOUSEHOLD THAT FAILED TO REMOVE ITS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS BY THE TWELFTH NIGHT AFTER THE HOLIDAY."

CLOSELY ALLIED TO THIS  
TWELFTH-DAY BELIEF IS THE  
DOOM THAT IS SUPPOSED TO  
STRIKE ANYONE WHO RIDES OR  
DRIVES A HORSE ON THIS DAY.



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Date June 1 1964 11:45 AM Page 4

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Name	Age
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

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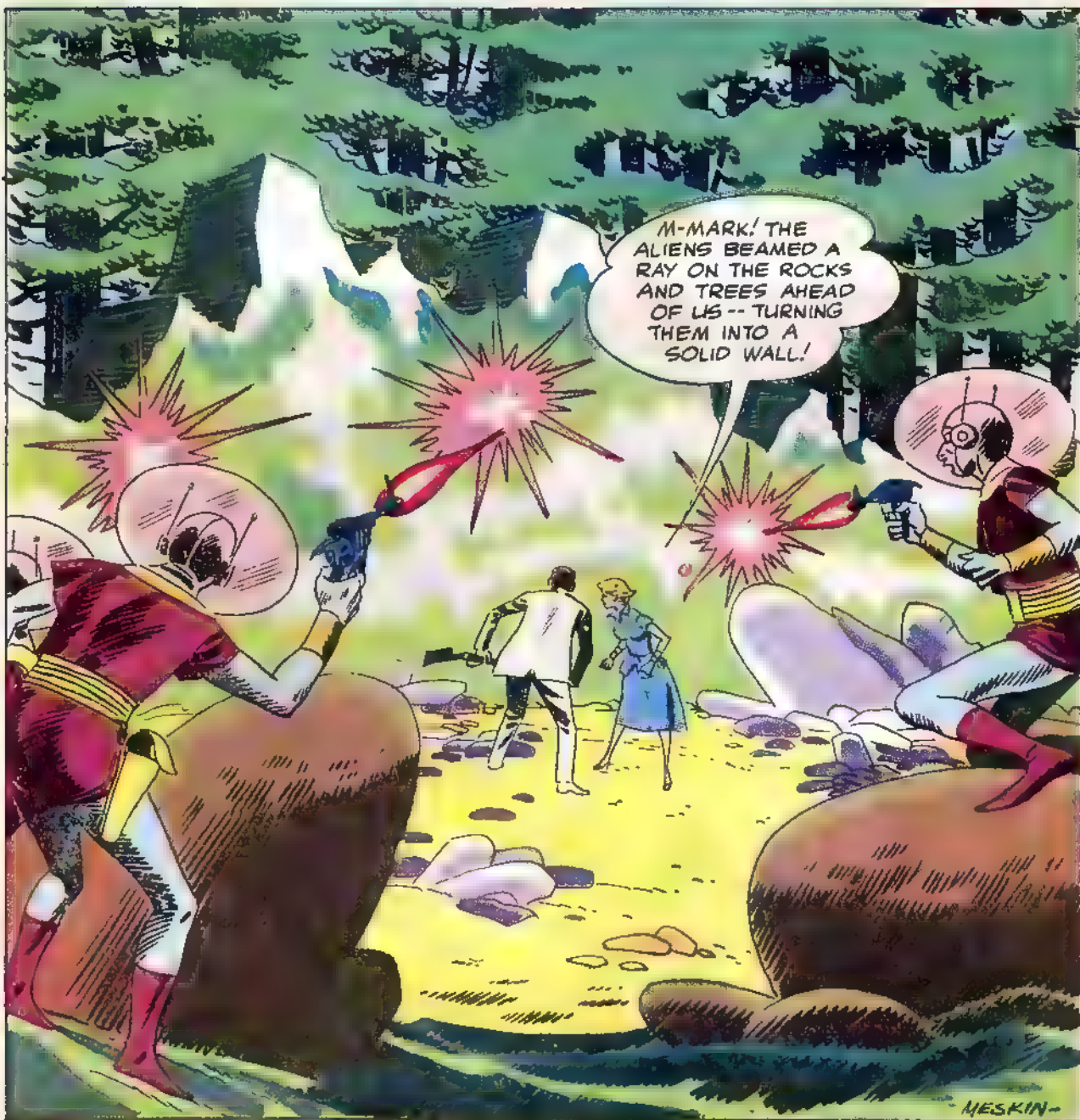
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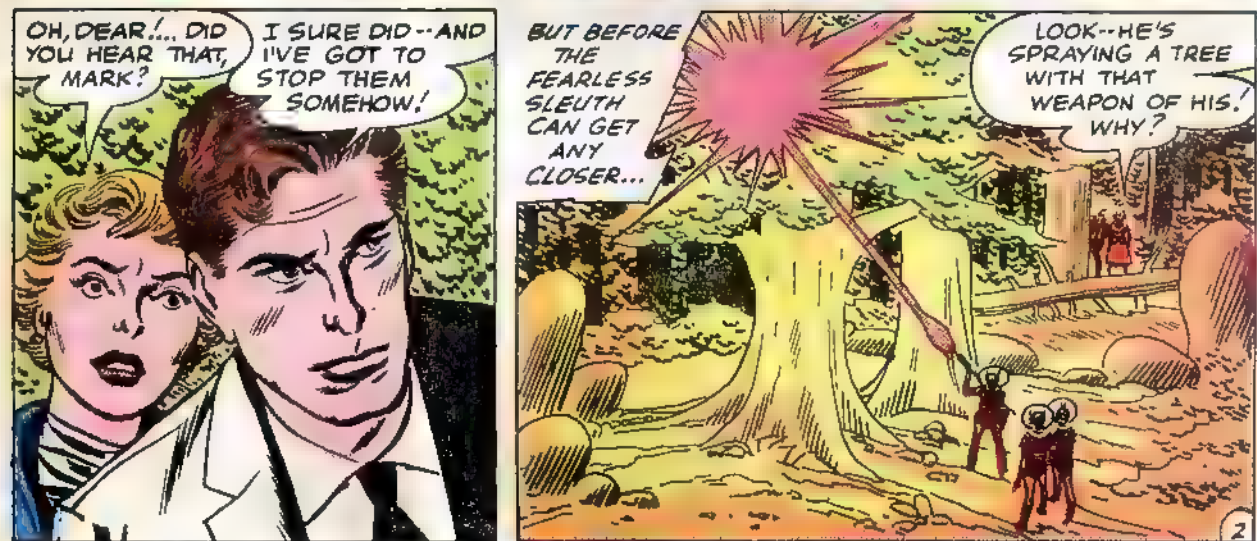
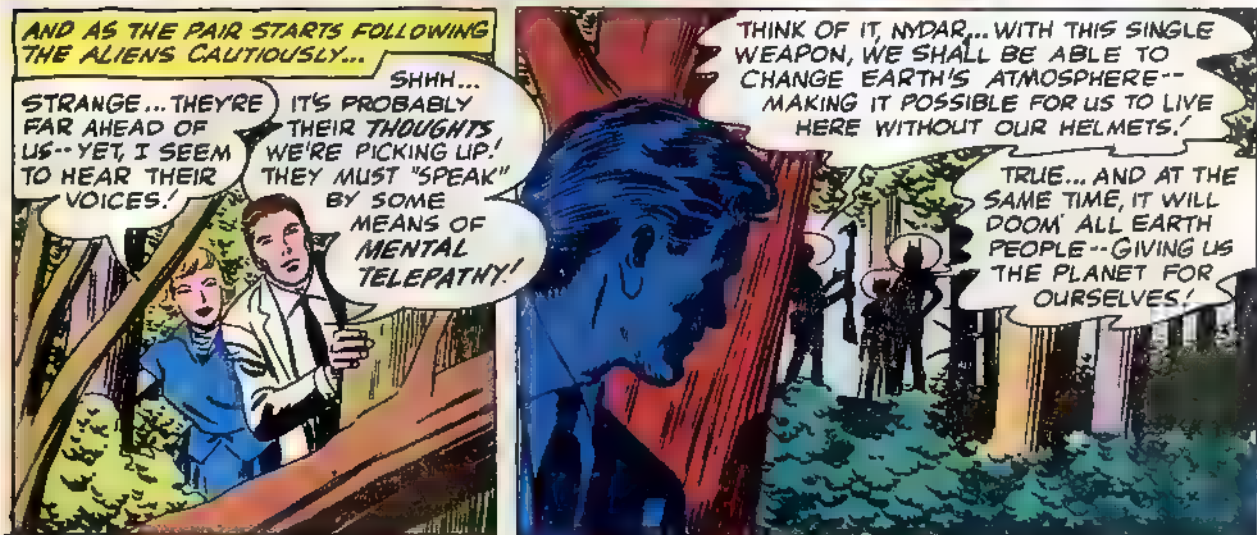
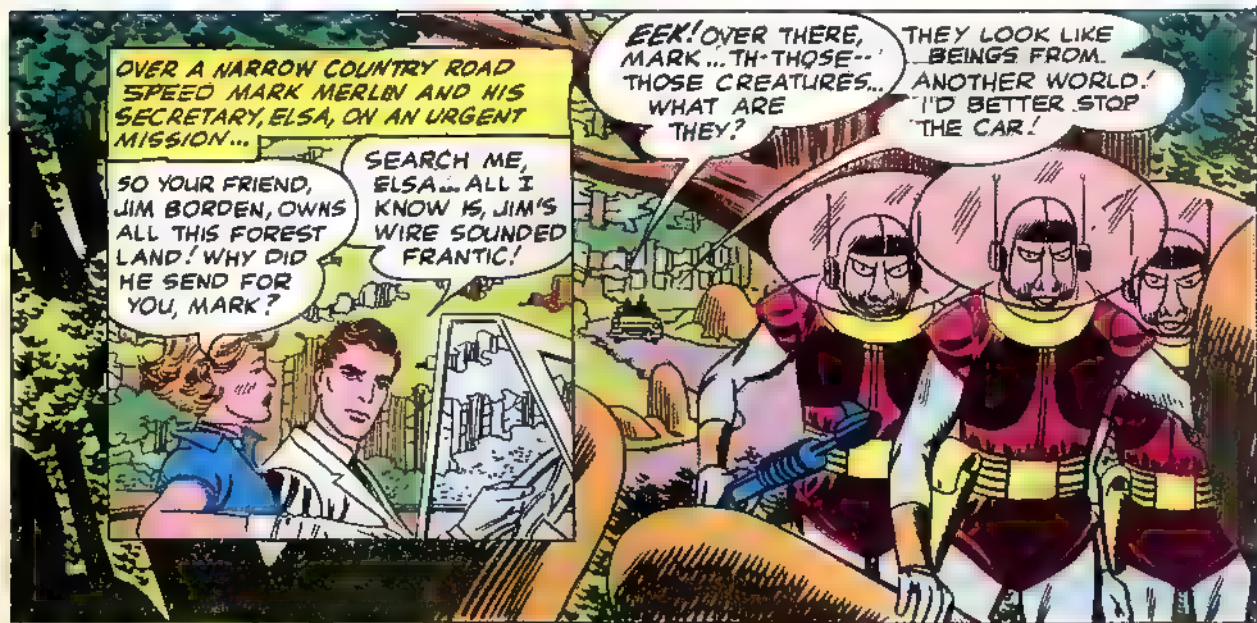


THE SINISTER ALIENS STALKED THE EARTH, BENT ON SOME STRANGE MISSION OF EVIL, AND MARK MERLIN, FAR-FAMED SUPERNATURAL SLEUTH, WHO HAD GONE OUT FEARLESSLY TO FACE THE THREAT, SOON FOUND HIMSELF TRAPPED IN A WEB OF HIS OWN MAKING, AS HE DARED TO CHALLENGE...

# the **MENACE** of the **CREEPING DOOM**









A MOMENT LATER COMES THE SHOCKING ANSWER...

TH-THE SPRAY...IT'S  
TURNING VEGETATION  
INTO SPONGE-LIKE  
PLANTS THAT GIVE  
OFF FUMES!

Y-YES... AND IT'S  
SPREADING,  
ELSA!

SO THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE  
TALKING ABOUT... A--A  
CREEPING DOOM THAT CAN  
SPREAD FROM COUNTRY  
TO COUNTRY...

"...FROM CONTINENT TO  
CONTINENT--TURNING ALL OUR  
VEGETATION INTO GAS-  
PRODUCING PLANTS...  
DESTROYING ALL LIFE ON  
EARTH!"

JUST THEN, A SUDDEN  
DOWNDRAFT CATCHES  
THE ACRID-SMELLING  
GAS, AND...

BACK, ELSA!...  
OR WE'LL BE  
FINISHED  
FOR SURE!

AT THAT INSTANT...

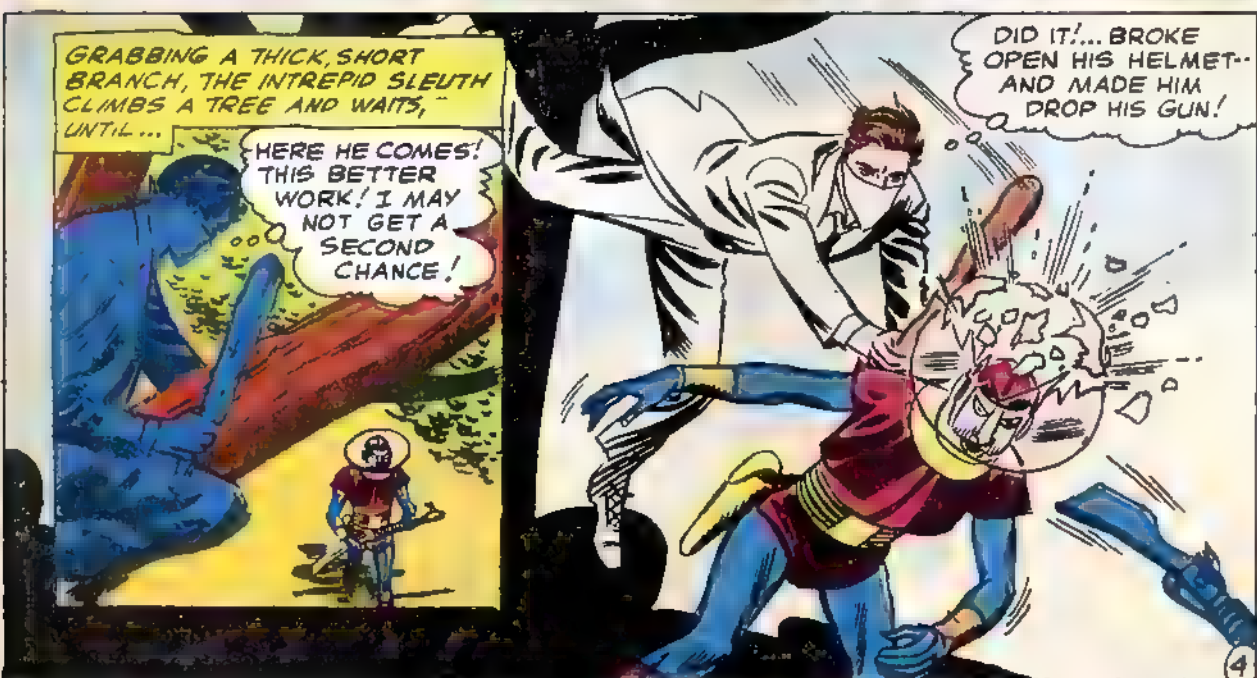
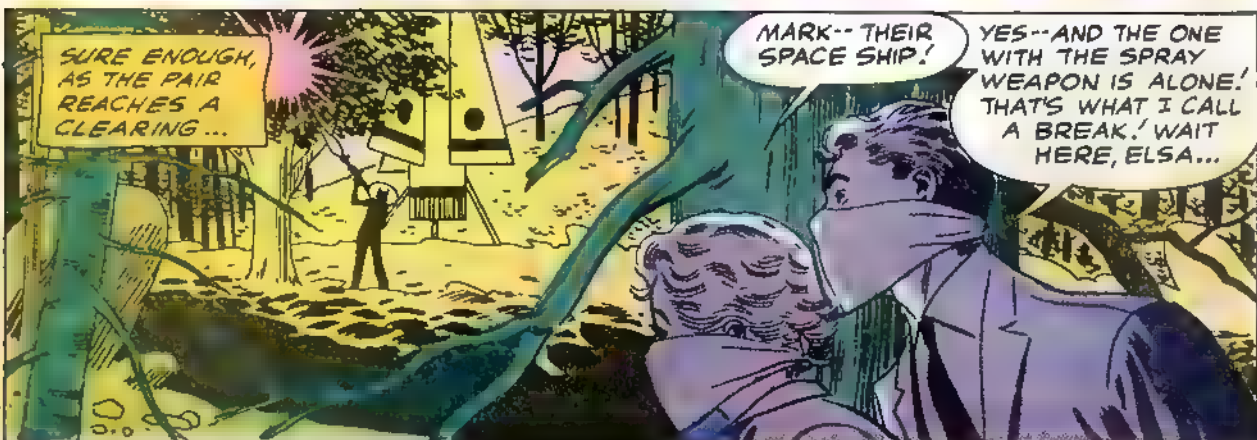
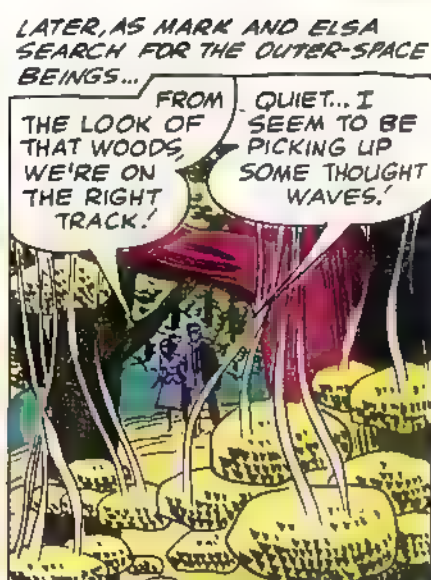
MARK! ELSA!  
OVER HERE!

IT'S JIM  
BORDEN!  
COME ON,  
ELSA...

MARK--YOU LOOK AS IF  
YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN  
THOSE ALIENS! MY MEN  
REPORTED SPOTTING  
A COUPLE OF  
SPACE SHIPS...  
THAT'S WHY I  
SENT FOR YOU!

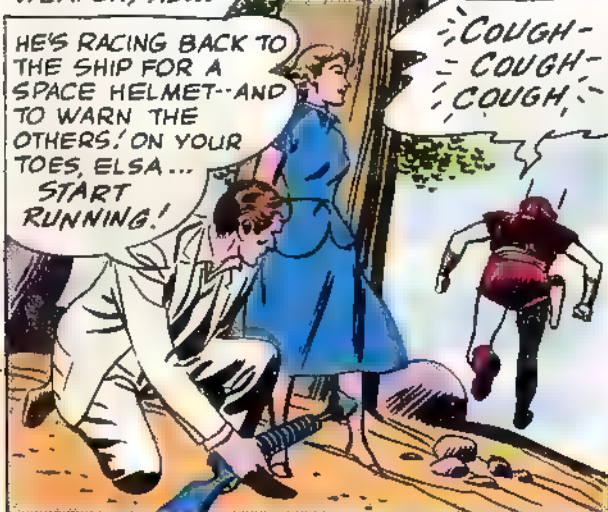
THE SITUATION'S A LOT  
MORE SERIOUS THAN YOU  
THINK, JIM... WE  
MUST ACT  
FAST!







QUICKLY, MARK MAKES FOR THE DISCARDED WEAPON, AS...



SHORTLY...

TH--THEY'RE COMING AFTER US, MARK!

DON'T WORRY... WITH OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE TERRAIN, WE'VE GOT A GOOD CHANCE TO GIVE THEM THE SLIP!



BUT SUDDENLY...

MARK--LOOK! THEY'RE FIRING A WEAPON AT THOSE TREES AND ROCKS--TURNING THEM INTO A SOLID WALL!



THROUGH THIS CLEARING, ELSA! THERE ARE NO TREES--OR ANYTHING ELSE HERE--THAT THEY CAN MELT INTO A WALL!

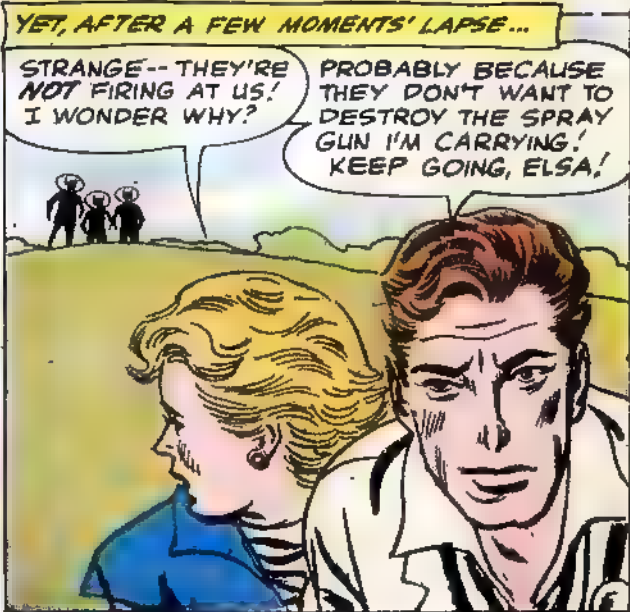
S-SURE... EXCEPT US!



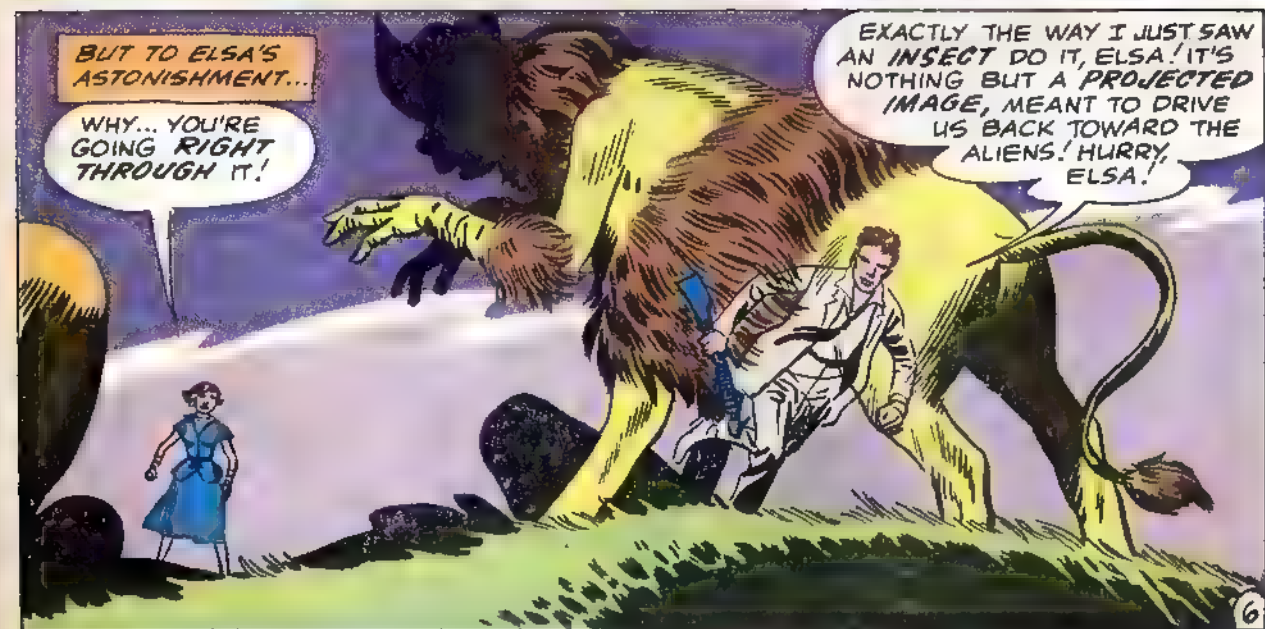
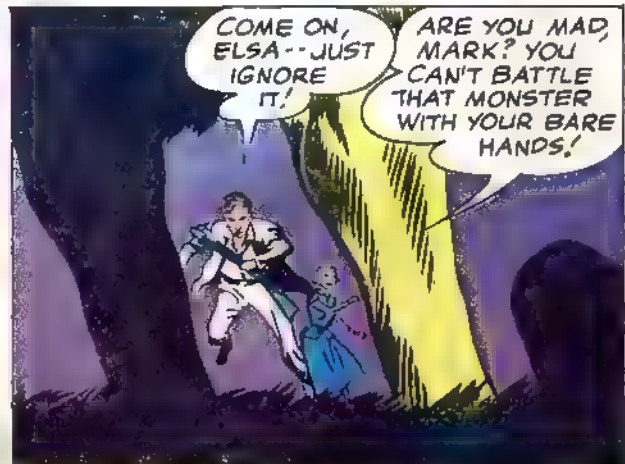
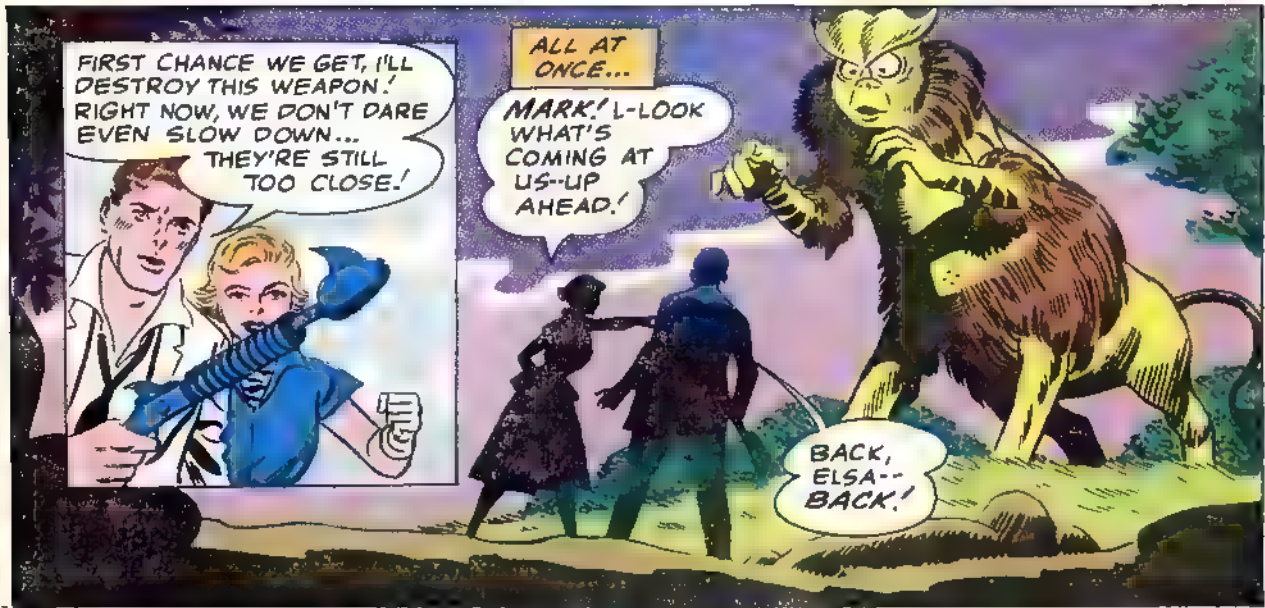
YET, AFTER A FEW MOMENTS' LAPSE...

STRANGE-- THEY'RE NOT FIRING AT US! I WONDER WHY?

PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO DESTROY THE SPRAY GUN I'M CARRYING! KEEP GOING, ELSA!





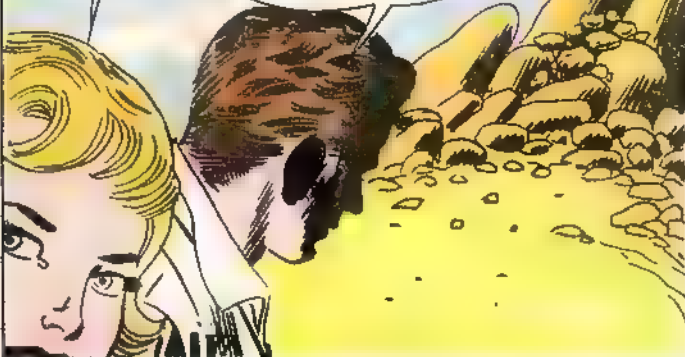




ON AND ON RACE THE TWO FIGURES, UNTIL...

IT'S NO USE, MARK... THEY'LL BE UP TO US IN MINUTES!

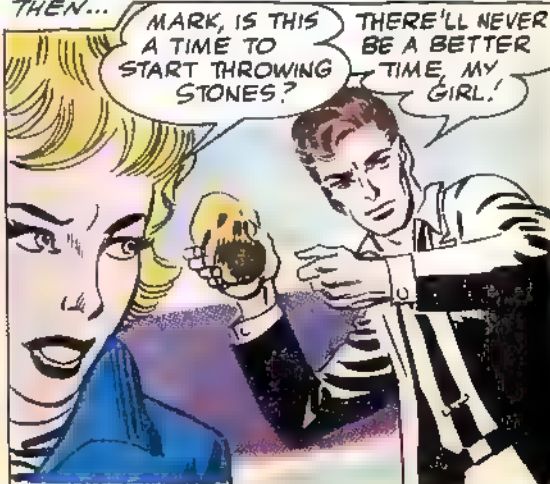
YOU'RE RIGHT, ELSA... BUT I CAN'T LET THEM GET THIS SPRAY GUN BACK! HMM-- THOSE BIG BOULDERS UP THERE!



MOVING WITH DESPERATE SPEED, THE GALLANT SLEUTH DROPS THE ALIEN WEAPON AT THE BASE OF THE HILL, THEN...

MARK, IS THIS A TIME TO START THROWING STONES?

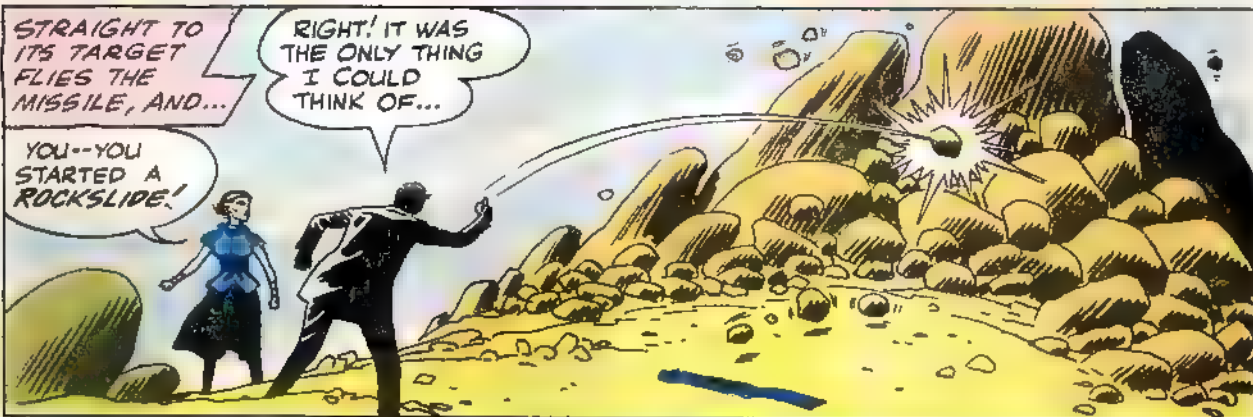
THERE'LL NEVER BE A BETTER TIME, MY GIRL!



STRAIGHT TO ITS TARGET FLIES THE MISSILE, AND...

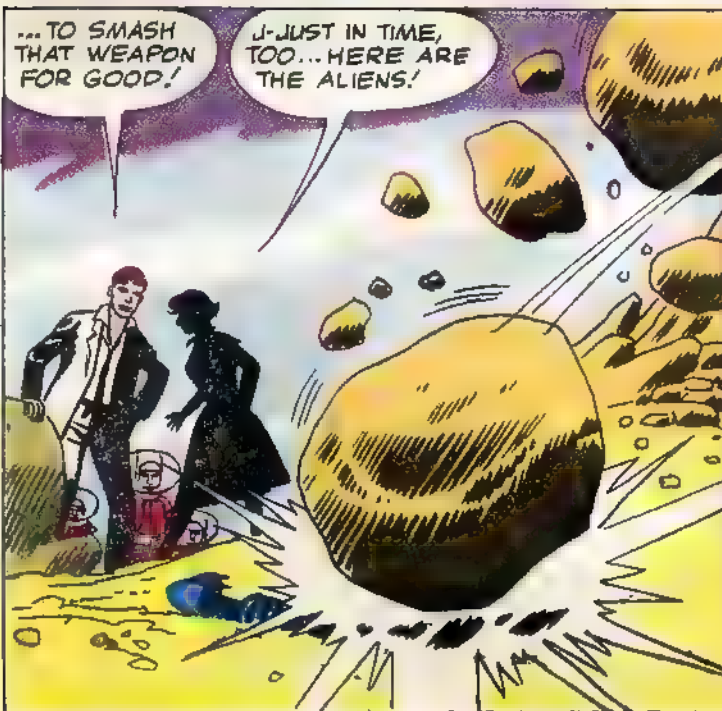
RIGHT! IT WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF...

YOU--YOU STARTED A ROCKSLIDE!



...TO SMASH THAT WEAPON FOR GOOD!

J-JUST IN TIME, TOO... HERE ARE THE ALIENS!



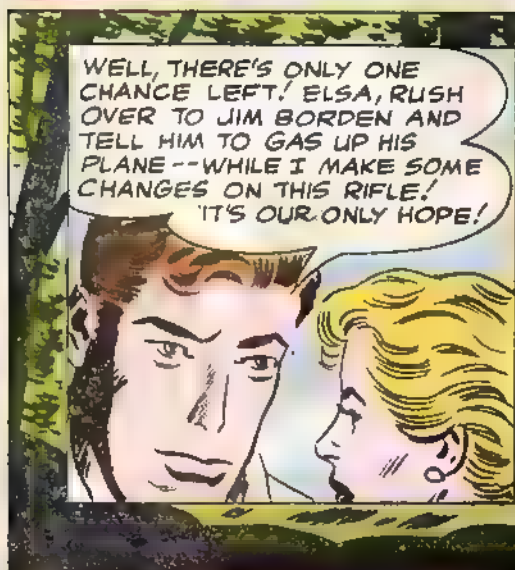
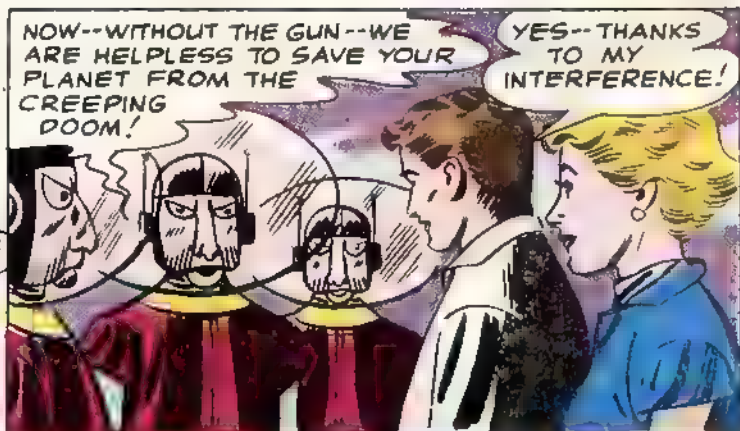
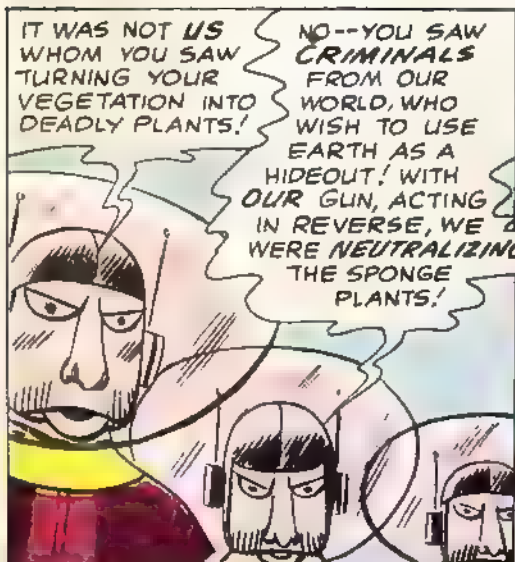
AND THAT'S WHEN MARK GETS THE BIGGEST SHOCK OF ALL...

FOD! YOU HAVE JUST DESTROYED THE ONLY WEAPON THAT COULD SAVE YOUR WORLD!

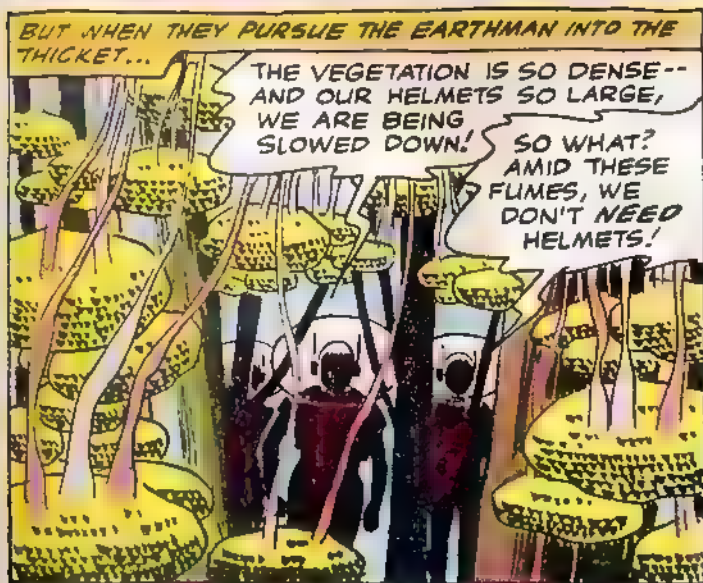
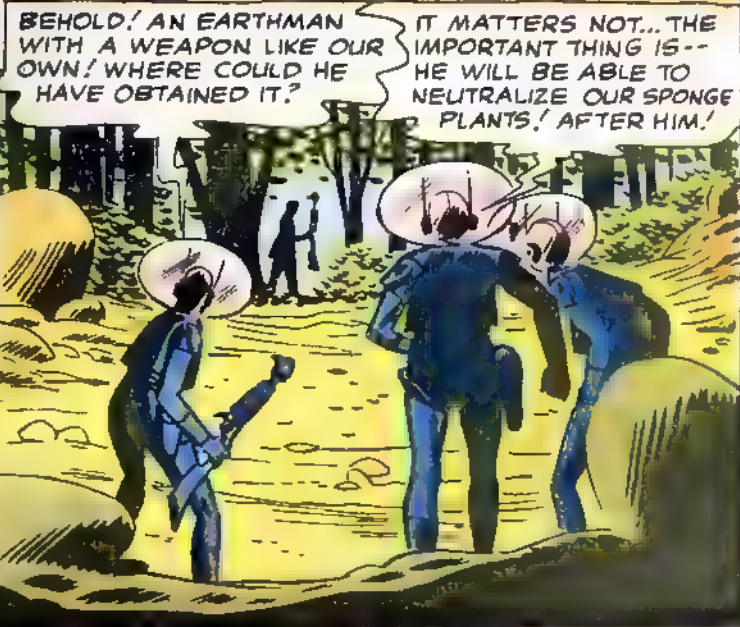
WHAT...?







WHAT IS MARK PLANNING? SOME TIME LATER, AS THE CRIMINAL ALIENS MOVE THROUGH THE WOODS...





BUT THE INSTANT THEY  
EXPOSE THEMSELVES...

I GASP! CANNOT  
CHOK! BREATHE!

NOR  
CHOK! CAN I!



AND IN THAT SAME MOMENT...

GET 'EM WHILE  
THEIR HELMETS  
ARE OFF!

IT--WAS--  
A--TRAP!



AFTER THEIR HELMETS HAVE BEEN RESTORED...

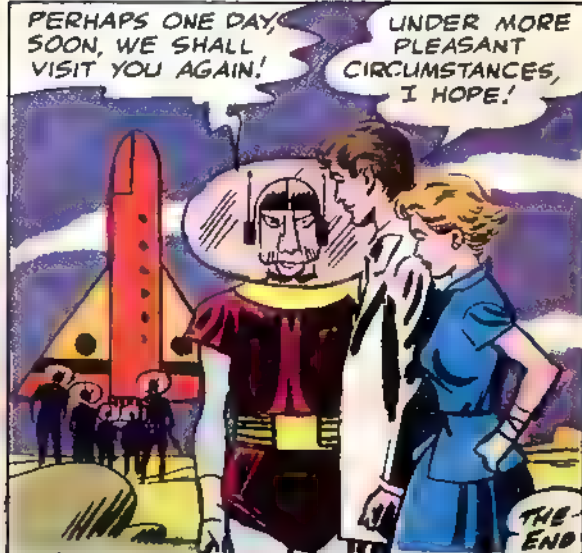
IT WAS VERY CLEVER  
OF YOU, EARTHMAN-- TO  
SIMULATE OUR PLANT,  
THE FUMES AND THE  
SPRAY WEAPON! HOW  
DID YOU MANAGE IT?

WITH A  
PLANE-LOAD OF  
SEA SPONGES,  
SOME SMUDGE  
POTS-- AND MY OWN  
RIFLE, APPROPRIATELY  
DISGUISED!



PERHAPS ONE DAY,  
SOON, WE SHALL  
VISIT YOU AGAIN!

UNDER MORE  
PLEASANT  
CIRCUMSTANCES,  
I HOPE!



THE  
END

# HAWK-A-A-A!

That's the ringing cry that summons  
the bold **BLACKHAWKS**  
to daring action against  
bizarre foes!

ORDER OF THE DAY

"RAIDS of the FANTASTIC PHANTOM!"  
"UNDERWORLD SPORTSMEN!"  
"SECRET of the CHAMELEON!"

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6

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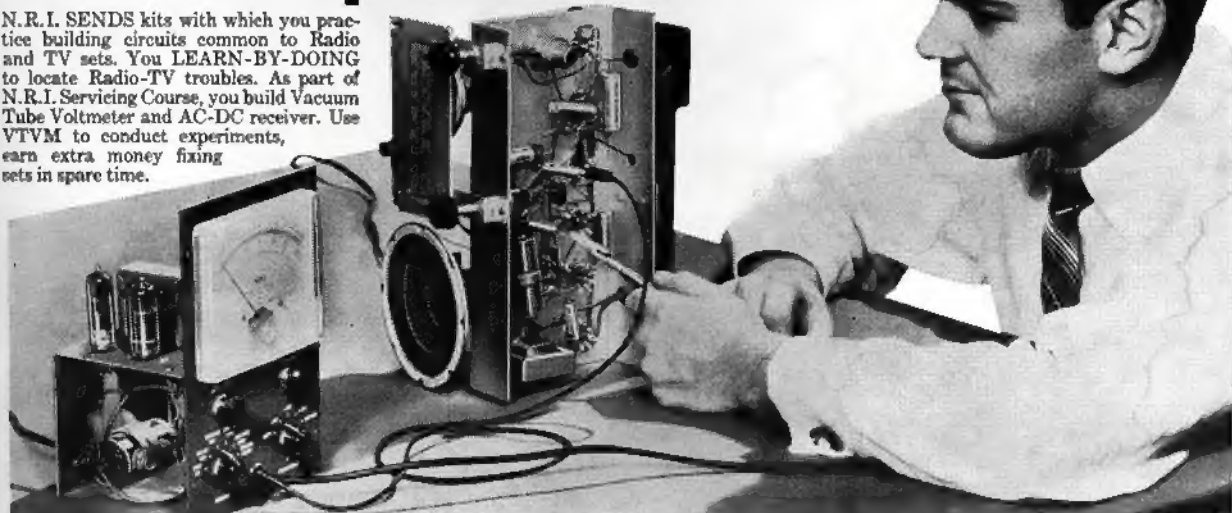
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# Learn Radio-Television

## Servicing or Communications by Practicing at Home in Spare Time

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**RADIO-TV BROADCASTING** (see above) offers important positions as Operators and Technicians. **RADIO-TV SERVICING** Technicians (see below) needed in every community. Their services are respected, their skill appreciated.



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**J. E. SMITH**  
Founder

Bigger than ever and still growing fast. That's why Radio-TV has special appeal to ambitious men not satisfied with their job and earnings. More than 4,000 Radio and TV stations. More than 150 million home and auto Radios, 40 million TV sets. Color TV promises added opportunities. For the trained man, there are good jobs, bright futures in Radio-TV Servicing or Broadcasting.

Training PLUS opportunity is the ideal combination for success. So plan now to get into Radio-TV. The technical man is looked up to. He does important work, gets good pay for it. Radio-Television offers that kind of work. NRI can supply training quickly, without expense of going away to school. Keep your job while training. You learn at home in your spare time. NRI is the **OLDEST and LARGEST** home study Radio-TV school. Its methods have proved successful for more than 40 years.

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"Doing spare time repairs on Radio and TV. Soon servicing full time." **CLYDE HIGGINS,** Waltham, Mass.

"I had a successful Radio repair shop. Now I'm Engineer for WHPE." **V.W. WORKMAN,** High Point, N.C.



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